Man pleads guilty to first cyber-stalking case in CNMI. » PAGE 2

TRO to stop businessman from handling businesses denied. » PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 28

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Groups intend to sue Navy, feds

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Environmental groups from the Northern Marianas Islands and nation-wide intend to challenge the Department of Navy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over an alleged failure to comply with Endangered Species Act and for ongoing live-fire and sea training in the Marianas Islands range, according to a notice of intent to sue these agencies dated Feb. 5.

See NAVY on Page 4

Paul Manglona goes back to Senate

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres accepts resignation of Esther Fleming

Former senator Paul Manglona, a runner-up in the last election for a Senate seat for Rota, has finally been appointed to the vacant Senate seat that Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog left when he ascended to his current post after the passing of the late governor Eloy S. Inos in December.

Hocog, the former Senate president, issued the appointment letter last week while he was acting governor. Copies of the letter were shared to reporters yesterday.

Manglona

At the same time yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres continued the reorganization of his Cabinet.

Torres and Hocog yesterday accepted the courtesy resignation of Esther S. Fleming, special assistant for administration (SAA) under the Office of

See PAUL on Page 4

90 pct of AMP open for daytime use

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ninety percent of the American Memorial Park is now accessible to the public but only for daytime use.

Half a year after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan there is still work to be done at the park.

According to park superintendent

» Due to damaged lights, park closed at night for safety reasons

Jim Richardson, they have yet to receive all the supplies they ordered to replace the walkway and parking area lights that were damaged.

"All of our sidewalk lighting and parking area lights were also destroyed by the typhoon," Richardson said.

"As we open the park, it's open

See AMP on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
Ninety percent of the American Memorial Park is open to the public but for daytime use only. Lights for the walkway and parking area have to be fixed before the park can be opened at night.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Non-profit organizations donated hundreds of boxes of footwear to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program.

» PAGE 5

NATION
The arrival of thousands of Somali refugees in this former mill city sparked a backlash at first, complete with a rally of white supremacists and a pig's head rolled into the local mosque.

» PAGE 15

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

20 DAYS
CDMA SHUTDOWN
IS FEBRUARY 29
IT&E
Life In Motion

CLUB C
CASINO & ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR CASINO AND ENTERTAINMENT PARADISE IN SAIPAN
CLUB C BONUSES
10th February to 9th March 2016
Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
8:00pm to 10:30pm
Rewards Totaling
$9,185.00
An evening providing great food, drinks, entertainment and multiple rewards for Club C Members
Conditions apply.
WEDNESDAY
Ladies Night & Got More Beer?
Ladies Night
Margarita - $5.00
Coronita Margarita - $6.00
Bacardi Mojito - $5.00
$15
Choice of 5 Beers
FREE appetizer per table
1 FREE Party Platter appetizer for every 3 beer buckets purchased
Create Your Bucket
Choose between: Budweiser, Budlight, Miller Lite, Heineken, MGD, Dos XX, Red Horse, San Miguel, Corono, Asahi, Victoria Bitter
5:00pm to 10:00pm
Come and listen to
MIKE BLUE
sing R&B
OPEN DAILY: 12:00 noon to 4:00 a.m. | 234-0088 | www.clubcsaipan.com
Must be 18 to enter and 21 to consume alcohol | Designated Smoking Game Area
Located at the Lobby of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
www.facebook/clubcsaipan
WiFi

Local

Man pleads guilty to first cyberstalking case in CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brian Tebuteb Palacios, a man facing the first cyberstalking case in the CNMI for threatening, through Facebook messages, to rape and kill a woman and "smash" the face of her husband, entered a guilty plea yesterday in federal court.

Palacios, 27, pleaded guilty to the indictment charging him with cyberstalking, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, a one-year supervised release, and a $100 special assessment.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson accepted the defendant's guilty plea and set the sentencing for May 13.

After the hearing, Munson remanded Palacios to the custody of the U.S. Marshal Service.

Munson said he will not release the defendant on bail at this time.

Munson said he agrees with U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy's determination for the continued detention that there is clear and convincing evidence that no combination of conditions will assure the safety of the victim and other persons and the community if Palacios is released.

According to special assistant U.S. attorney Mohammad Khatib, Palacios used Facebook, an online social networking website, to harass and intimidate the woman.

» Through FB messages, defendant threatens to kidnap, rape, kill woman, 'smash' face of husband

Khatib said the defendant did not use his real identify, used fake names and personas, and invented at least four fictitious Facebook profiles to accomplish his harassment and intimidation.

Palacios then used the fictitious Facebook profiles he invented to send multiple threatening Facebook messages to the woman and her family.

The Facebook messages, Khatib said, included threats to stalk, abduct, rape, shoot, and kill the woman.

One of the messages, the prosecutor said, threatened to "smash" the face of the woman's husband.

Palacios' harassment and intimidation began in April 2015 and continued through September 2015.

"This pattern of conduct had the deleterious effect of placing victim-1 (woman) in reasonable fear of death and serious bodily injury," Khatib said, adding that such conduct also caused her to suffer substantial emotional distress.

The prosecutor said Palacios intentionally threatened and harassed the woman in order to cause her to be afraid, hoping to cast his actual self in the role of her protector and thereby create a rift between her and her husband.

Khatib said Palacios also attempted to prevent and thwart a law enforcement investigation into his harassment and intimidation.

Khatib said using his actual Facebook profile, Palacios told the woman's family not to report the threats and harassment to police.

The defendant also told the woman's family to tell her not to report the harassment to police.

Attorney Steven Pixley is the court-appointed counsel for Palacios.

Live the Fiesta Way!
5 COURSE MENU
Seared Teppan Style Scallops with Crispy Fried Leeks on Raspberry Coulis
***
Clear Fish Bouillon
***
Lobster Ravioli in Saffron Foam
***
Lemon Pepper Seared Chilean Sea Bass
Or
Veal Steak on Porcini Coulis served with Buttered Vegetables and Potato
***
Valentine Dessert
Valentine's Special
February 14, 2016, Sunday
Celebrate Valentine's day at Mai Teppanyaki
5 course dinner for two
*$155
* With a Bottle of Bottega Fragolino per Couple.
* Couple will receive a Chambre Bar complimentary drink coupon either Frozen, Regular or Flavored Margarita.
Limited Seating Only
6:00pm or 8:00pm
For reservations & inquiry
Please call 234-6414
ext. 1547/1548 or 233-6414
MAI teppanyaki
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

TRO to stop businessman from handling businesses denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Byung Deuk Lee, a Korean businessman who was allegedly diagnosed with Alzheimer disease and kept away from the rest of his family, surfaced in Superior Court yesterday with his lawyer and submitted a medical examination showing he only has a mild cognitive impairment.

At a hearing, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the request of Lee's wife, Koom Nye Kim, and their son, Sang Hun Lee, to issue a temporary restraining order to stop the elder Lee from handling the businesses because apparently he was losing his mind.

The wife and son want to be appointed as guardians and handle Lee's businesses.

Camacho set an evidentiary hearing for May 2 to determine if a temporary injunction should be granted based on what witnesses will testify about Lee's mental condition.

Attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Byung Deuk Lee, told *Saipan Tribune* that in denying the TRO, Camacho found the Jan. 13, 2016, medical report sufficient to inform that Lee only has a mild cognitive impairment and which would improve with medication.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Businessman Byung Deuk Lee, who is said to be diagnosed with Alzheimer disease, walks outside the courtroom with his lawyer Robert T. Torres after a hearing yesterday for a temporary restraining order. Behind Lee and Torres is attorney Janet H. King, who is counsel for Lee's company that owns, among other businesses, Seoul One Korean Restaurant and Shinsen Japanese Restaurant.

Torres said Lee is presumed competent.

"Being old is not incompetent. Being forgetful does not make someone incompetent," Torres said, adding that even with a disability a person continues to enjoy the right to be free from restraint and freedom to associate.

"Reports of Mr. Lee's purported incompetence are greatly exaggerated and without basis. He is fine," Torres pointed out.

Attorney Janet H. King on the other hand, agreed with Torres that Byung Deuk Lee is fine.

King is counsel for Lee's China Yanbian Foreign Economic & Technical Cooperation Corp.

King told *Saipan Tribune* that Lee is the majority shareholder of China Yanbian and that he was not found incompetent and in need of a guardianship.

China Yanbian is engaged in various businesses in the CNMI and currently manages two restaurants located in Garapan.

In general, King said, the court would find a person to be in need of guardianship when he or she shows a lack of capacity to make responsible decisions.

King said a person may not be declared incompetent simply because he has a developmental disability or mental illness.

"By itself, it is not enough to declare a person incompetent. The corporation's best interests would not be served by a finding of incompetence where there is none," she said.

Attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith appeared at the hearing for Lee's wife, Kim, and son, Koom Nye Lee. It was attorney David G. Banes who filed the court action as counsel for Kim and her son, for protection of businessman Lee and his business interests on Saipan.

According to Banes in court documents, Ji Sook Lee is the daughter of Lee, born out of wedlock.

Banes said it was Ji Sook Lee who removed Lee from a hospital in South Korea, where he was diagnosed with Alzheimer disease, and kept him away from his family, then traveled to Saipan to control all of his businesses and property.

Banes asked the court to appoint the wife, Kim, as guardian of her husband, Lee.

Lee, however, granted his daughter, Ji Sook Lee, a power of attorney to handle the businesses for him.

FHB.COM

4 Easy Steps to Reboot Your Budget

1 SET YOUR GOAL AND TIMELINE

2 DETERMINE HOW MUCH YOU OWE

3 CREATE A DEBT REDUCTION PLAN

4 PAY OFF HIGH-INTEREST BILLS

BILL CONSOLIDATION LOAN

4.99% APR*

Fixed for 1 year

Make the commitment today.
To get started, call 1-800-403-7167
or apply at fhb.com.

First Hawaiian Bank.
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau

Member FDIC

* The Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of 4.99% will apply to new approved personal loan applications received 1/1/16 to 2/29/16 with a principal amount of $10,050.00 and a term of 12 months. Loans with other principal amounts ($2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the promotional APR may differ. A one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 applies to all loans under this promotion and will be added to the principal balance. For a 12-month loan of $10,050 at 4.99% APR, you will have 12 monthly payments of $856.05, which includes principal and interest. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer does not apply to business or real estate loans. Also, the proceeds of the loan cannot be used to pay off any existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit.

E-Land World, 2 others file corporate disclosure statement

E-Land World Co. Ltd., the majority shareholder of Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, and two other companies that are being sued by attorney Vincent DLG. Torres have filed in federal court a corporate disclosure statement.

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, lawyers representing nongovernmental corporate parties are required to file a disclosure statement that identifies any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10 percent or more of its stock, or state that there is no such corporation.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce filed the corporate disclosure statements for his clients—E-Land World Co. Ltd., Micronesia Resort Inc., and Suwaso Corp.

According to Pierce, E-Land World Co. Ltd. has no parent corporation.

Pierce said the Micronesia Resort Inc. is owned by non-party E-Land Park Ltd. and by Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.

The lawyer disclosed that E-Land Park Ltd. owns a majority of Micronesia Resort Inc.'s shares, while Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc. owns the minority remainder of Micronesia Resort Inc.'s shares.

Pierce said Suwaso Corp. is owned by Micronesia Resort Inc. and by Torres and a non-party individual.

Pierce said the Micronesia Resort Inc. owns majority of Suwaso shares, while Torres and a non-party individual are the other shareholders of record.

The lawyer said no publicly held corporation owns 10 percent or more of the stock of any of the entities.

E-Land World Co. Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesia Resort Inc., and Kwang Won Seo, through Pierce, filed last week a notice to transfer to federal court Torres' lawsuit against them and other co-defendants.

Torres sued E-Land World Co. Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesia Resort Inc., and some of its current and former directors and employees for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans over $5 million without proper authorization.

In his lawsuit, Torres discussed, among other things, the ownership of Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NAVY

From Page 1

"The Navy and the Service have violated and remain in ongoing violation of the ESA," said David Henkin, an Earthjustice attorney, in the letter.

"If these violations of law are not cured within 60 days, [the groups] intend to file suit for declaratory and injunctive relief."

Henkin's letter appears to pin the grounds of a lawsuit on the Navy's and Service's alleged failure to reconsider the expansive military project in light of newly declared and threatened species in the Marianas.

The Navy fails "to insure that their military project will not likely jeopardize the continued existence of newly listed threatened or endangered species," Henkin said.

The argument appears to center on the Navy's continued and authorized training within the Marianas despite a lack of consultation with the wildlife service, after the Service's declared 23 plant and animal species as endangered or threatened last October.

This consultation with the Service is required pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

Henkin quotes the Service's own words in their final rule on the matter: "The [Marianas Islands Training and Testing area] opens up every island within the Mariana Archipelago as a potential training site... which subsequently may result in negative impacts to any number of the 23 species addressed."

The Service said the proposed actions include increasing in "training activities in Guam, Rota, Saipan, Tinian, Farallon de Medinilla (increase in bombing), and Pagan. Likely negative impacts include, but are not limited to, direct damage to individuals from live-fire training and ordnance, wildlife resulting from live-fire and ordnance, direct physical damage (e.g. trampling by humans, helicopter landing, etc.) to individuals, and spread of nonnative species."

"Additionally, water purification training is proposed for all these islands, exept for Farallon de Medinilla, which may be particularly damaging to the Rota blue damselfly," the Service said.

The Service's final decision, Henkin said, "makes clear" that the Navy training may affect the newly listed species, "triggering the obligation to reinitiate consultation."

"This notice letter was prepared in good faith, after reasonably diligent investigation," Henkin said. "If you believe that any of the foregoing is factually inaccurate or erroneous, please notify us promptly."

Comments from the Department of Navy were not available as of press time, but a Navy spokesperson said a statement would be forthcoming today.

Large picture frustrations

The potential lawsuit taps into larger frustrations over military projects—like firing ranges, a divert airfield, the proposed leasing of the entire island of Pagan, and the relocation of thousands of Marines to Guam from Japan—that military planners have issued and approved within the Marianas Islands range in recent years.

"Look at what is happening here," Peter J. Perez, co-founder of the advocate group Pagan Watch, said yesterday. "A department of the federal government, not the leadership of the United States, not the President and the Congress, but a department, somehow has the right to unilaterally decide to turn a state's territory into the world's largest live-fire training range."

"This is a severe encroachment on the territory of Guam and the CNMI," Perez said. Pagan Watch is one of the handful groups attached to the notice to sue the Navy.

For the Marianas Islands Training and Testing area, or MITT, the Navy expanded a training area encompassing some 500,000 square nautical miles of ocean into an expansive 980,000-some square miles—an area that advocates have lamented is larger than the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, and New Mexico combined.

In 2013, the late CNMI governor Eloy Songao Inos called on the Navy to conduct better baseline studies, grant more marine protection areas, and asked that undersea training not be done around certain island seamounts believed to be plentiful with marine life.

But in their formal response to Inos last May, the Navy said they could not impose these "geographic limitations on training and testing activities," calling it an "impractical burden" to implement and an "unacceptable impact to the effectiveness" of their training.

The Navy approved the undersea ordnance training—inclusive of a reported roughly 300-percent increase of ordnance bombing on Farallon De Medinilla—last August.

Perez said the voices of the CNMI governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, the mayors, the municipal council, or in other words, the entire local state-level government are all being "ignored."

"The American citizens who live here—who have said "NO" in a strong and clear voice—are also being disregarded."

"In fact, the only obstacle to the Department of Defense's intention to take and bomb our islands and waters is the requirement under federal law that they follow the EIS process that was designed to ensure compliance with federal laws for the protection of the environment and historic assets."

"Pagan Watch and the other signatories to the letter are determined to not allow the DoD to ignore the EIS process as well. It is all that is standing between us and what the late governor Inos characterized as the "existential threat" of the DoD turning our lands and waters into a giant live-fire range with all the destruction, contamination, and restrictions on the people's freedoms that come with it," Perez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The February notice of intent to sue lists a total of eight groups from the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii in the notice to sue.

The attached groups include the Alternative Zero Coalition, Center for Biological Diversity, Fanacho Marianas, Guardians of Gani, Oceania Resistance, Pagan Watch, Tinian Premier Football Club, and Tinian Women's Association.

The letter was sent to the Department of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, USFW Service Director Daniel M. Ashe, and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel.

AMP

From Page 1

only for day use until we get the rest of the lights installed," he added.

No timeline was given as to when the park will be open for nighttime use, but Richardson said they will install the lights immediately once all of them arrives.

"I keep hoping that the lights will arrive next week and we can go about taking the next couple of weeks to installing the lights," Richardson said.

He added that even some small areas in the park will not be open for many months due to safety reasons.

Richardson reminded the pubic to adhere to warning signs on certain areas in the park where people are not yet allowed to use.

"We'd like for people to stay out of the areas that are closed because it's completely about safety," Richardson said.

The walkways from the beach as well as the pavilion have already been cleared up, the Visitor's Center was opened last October, although the auditorium remains closed until the park can get contractors to take care of the damage.

"We just got bids. We're frustrated that it has taken us months to get bids," Richardson said.

Tennis court

The next priority for the park is the tennis court which has been closed for six months now.

"We're hoping that we can get the tennis court open for day use sometime in March," Richardson said.

The court has already been cleared of trees and fencing and lighting materials are already ordered and shipped.

He added that they will also be touching up the playing surface of the court.

"I would expect that installed during this month," Richardson said.

"Once we receive the lights, we probably have to close them again for a short time period so we can install those lights," he added.

Aside from about $100,000 that the park used for restoration last fiscal year, they have about $482,000 on top of their regular park money this fiscal year from the National Parks Service to use for park restoration.

Richardson said the challenge for the restoration was the shipment of the materials that they need as well as the many trees that were downed by Soudelor.

Tree replacements

The park estimates that 90 percent of their trees were "either uprooted, broken, or damaged to the point that they may not survive."

"Many of the trees planted 20 to 30 years ago, turned out not to be so durable," Richardson said.

He added that the replacements of the trees will need additional money in the future and that they will seek the public's help on what kind of trees to plant.

"We are planning to replace the trees in the formal landscape which is the memorial area. Once we get our auditorium fixed, so that it's healthy enough for people to meet there, we're going to have a meeting and invite the public to help us plan how to put trees back in that formal landscape," Richardson said.

Most of the work done to restore the park was made by the local park employees themselves, rendering extra hours and most of their days, according to Richardson.

"I give a ton of credit for the local park staff for working so hard and get the park open for the public," Richardson said.

They were also able to get help from Hawaii and California parks for some weeks and the CNMI government for some equipment.

"I want to thank the public for their patience and understanding. We understand how much people appreciate and love the park," Richardson said.

PAUL

From Page 1

the Governor.

The continuing reorganization came after members of the cabinet and special assistants submitted their courtesy resignations to Torres and Hocog.

"I have accepted Esther Fleming's courtesy resignation. She has served under different administration up until now, and for that, I commend her length of public service to the people. I appreciate her acceptance to serve under a different capacity in my administration," said Torres in a statement yesterday.

Non-profit groups donate footwear to NAP

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-profit organizations donated hundreds of boxes of footwear to the The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Nutrition Assistance Program that will be given away to needy families that are under their care and to those affected by Typhoon Soudelor.

Marianas Young Professionals, Sons of Saipan, and United 4 Saipan gave away 2,500 pairs of flip-flops and sandals.

MY Pro vice president Nola Hix said the donation was in collaboration with A1 Shoes of Guam. More boxes are still in the Triple B Forwarders warehouse in Lower Base and will be delivered to NAP in the coming days.

My Pro treasurer Nikki Villagomez and U4S founder Jenny Hegland joined Hix in turning over 700 pairs to NAP administrator Walter Macaranas and retail and redemption officer Elizabeth Marie Palacios Olouachel.

"The footwear comes in a variety of sizes for male and female. There are for kids and adults. We will let NAP decide how to distribute it to the families. They can spread it to everyone and give a number of pairs to each household," said Hix.

Macaranas said one way of distributing the footwear is to hand it to those who will get their NAP food stamps.

"What we plan to do to distribute these is to set up a tent or another spot here at the NAP office where we hand over the footwear as they receive their benefits. They could try it on to see if the size fits them," said Macaranas.

DCCA, which is the lead agency of NAP, is thankful for the donation given by the non-profit groups.

"In behalf of the DCCA secretary, I would like to express our appreciation for their donation of slippers that would also benefit the NAP recipients. This is one of the many worthy and noble efforts these groups do in continuing to help the families in need," said Macaranas.

"We thank them for considering DCCA-NAP as a partner in this effort," he added.

JON PEREZ

Nutrition Assistance Program administrator Walter Macaranas, second left, and NAP retail and redemption officer Elizabeth Marie Palacios Olouachel, left, receive the donation of footwear from Marianas Young Professionals treasurer Nikki Villagomez, third left, United 4 Saipan founder Jenny Hegland, and MY Pro vice president Nola Hix yesterday at the NAP office in As Lito.

DEQ red-flags 3 sites on Tinian

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Unai Babui, Unai Chulu, and Leprosarium Beach 2 on Tinian and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said samples collected from the three locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded he CNMI marine Water Quality Standards.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian. Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=52. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications weekly marine water quality reports. To do so please send an email to waterquality-report@deq,gov.mp

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. ***(PR)***

Camacho, Duenas lead Interact clubs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cousins Andrea Camacho and Coleen Triana Duenas have been leading the Interact clubs of their respective schools, setting a good example for the youth of the CNMI.

They and close to 30 of their members have been volunteering in a number of projects by the Rotary Club of Saipan, which have been guiding them with community work.

Camacho is the Interact Club president at Kagman High School, while Duenas is her counterpart over at Marianas High School. Both are in their junior year. Both were present along with their respective members in yesterday's Rotary Club meeting at the Giovanni's restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"She (Duenas) introduced me to Interact last year. I was not that active first but I became more involved when I learned more about the group and the work they do for the community," said Camacho.

"I started going to meetings and participate in community events as a volunteer," she added.

Duenas, meanwhile, had her sister to thank for in getting involved with Interact Club. "My sister was the Interact president in her senior year and I was a freshman back then."

"She was a part of my decision to also join Interact. I just want to follow her footsteps because I also like to volunteer and help out the community in any way that I can," Duenas said.

Last Feb. 6, the KHS and MHS Interact clubs painted a bus shelter in Middle Road near Conwood. This is part of Rotary Saipan's project of repairing and improving a number of bus stops on the island that were damaged by Typhoon Soudelor last year. The Interact members were also volunteers at Rotary Saipan's Las Vegas Night fundraiser last month.

"We are focusing on one bus shelter every Saturday. We're still looking for bus stops and bus shelters that need repainting or repairs," said Duenas.

Interact Club members from Kagman High School and Marianas High School join Rotary Club of Saipan president Curtis Dancoe, center, for a group photo after yesterday's meeting at Giovanni's restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. JON PEREZ

Kloe Borja, Daisyleen Kouka, DeFaustina Camacho, Noreen Angui, Steffany Calantog, Cindy Castro, Jasmine Blas, Charles Punzalan, Erika Coronado, Elisha Ogumoro, Michael Bandoja, Machael Rebamba, and Jonathan Maniego joined Camacho at the Rotary meeting.

MHS Interact vice president Do Hyeon Kwon, Carol Mae Lumasag, Remeily Percil, Janelle Pangilinan, Naureen Lozada, Cullen Pinaula, Corlaine Camacho, and Fritz Manzano accompanied Duenas.

Camacho and Duenas were also the Saipan Interact members that participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange Project between Rotary Club of Saipan and Rotary Club of Tokyo Hachioji South.

The program involves two students each from Saipan and Japan to have the opportunity to experience and learn the culture in both countries. The Japanese club and the families that hosted Camacho and Duenas included a study-visit program at the Keimei Gakuen High School, fun time at the Fuji-Q Highland amusement park near the base of Mt. Fuji, and exploring downtown Tokyo in their itinerary.

Rotarian Elly Stoilova said Camacho and Duenas spent a week in Tokyo. "This was our first trial to see how it works and test the logistics of the program. We are looking in the future to do such exchanges for a month and even a semester."

The Interact Club is for students ages 12 to 18 while the Rotaract Club—which started in 2014 at the Northern Marianas College—is for students 18 to 28 years old and when you reach 30, that is the time you become a Rotarian said Rotary Saipan board member and president-elect Ivan Ilmov.

Ivan Ilmov has been a part of the Rotary International since he was 14 year old in Vladivostok in Southeastern Russia.

Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy coronation night nears

Excitement and anticipation are what the 14 candidates vying for the Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy are feeling right now with less than two weeks left before coronation night. The pageant is set on Feb. 20 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Pageant director Ernie Molina said they are almost done with their preparation of the pageant and the training of the candidates. They had another practice last night, from 7pm to 8pm, at the Saipan Music and Dance Studio.

"The candidates are excited and I am also excited. So far we are already 90 percent done with our preparations. And after more than 10 days spending time with them, I can say they are ready to compete," said Molina.

"They are getting more confident and doing better in [projecting] while modeling on the catwalk. But they still need to correct some techniques," he added.

Molina said the candidates would have different performances in the talent portion like singing, magic show, guitar and piano playing, acting, and ballroom, hip-hop and Polynesian dances.

The 14 candidates will also undergo a short course on effective speaking, while being interviewed, which will help them become confident in the question-and-answer portion.

Barny's Pizza owner Jimmy Ham will also treat the candidates to dinner at McDonald's, while DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan Pierce will give the candidates a gift from T Galleria.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago will then host a lunch for the candidates at the Kanoa Resort on Saturday.

"They will have a lot of bonding time. On Saturday they will choose who will be the candidate who will be named Miss Congeniality and who will win the Spirit Award," said Molina.

The criteria for judging will be based on personality, talent, formal wear, and the question-and-answer portion. The candidates will be judged right from the opening number like the way they dance and move on stage.

Cash prizes will be given away with the second runner-up winning $300, the first runner-up getting $500, while the Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy goes home with $800. Special awards also have cash prizes namely, Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, Spirit Award, Best in Talent, Best Evening Gown or Best Formal Wear, Star of the Night, and Miss Charity.

Molina explained that the Spirit awardee must show enthusiasm and energy, the Star of the Night is the one who excelled and stood out in the opening number, and the Miss Charity is the candidate who had helped the organizers in raising funds.

Angela Barbo, Mary Angela Cabrera, Clarice Mhae T. Canarejo, Catherine Kate Castro, Janelle S. Lavetoria, Queen Anne Lopez, Mazie Anne A. Manalang, Adonna Matutino, Rhine Jaydel Russell, Mary Lenor Sablan, Chloe Salvosa, Michaella Serrano, Mikamaika Serrano, and Erica Tubera are the 14 candidates. ***(Jon Perez)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DLNR/DFW-044

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TWIN ENGINES THE DFW 27' BOSTON WHALER CHALLENGER BOAT FOR DLNR – DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL,** SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD B. SEMAN
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2016 • TIME: 11:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2016-006
AMENDMENT #01
"Rehabilitation of Kagman Community Park"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Park located at the Kagman Community Center, Kagman III, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars *($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2331

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING DESIGN SERVICES ON For PASEO DE MARIANAS IMPROVEMENTS

Closing Date: **March 14, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2333

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING SERVICES ON GARAPAN BEACH ROAD & CORAL TREE AVENUE

Closing Date: **March 21, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For Food and Beverage Concession

The Northern Marianas Sports Association (hereinafter, "NMSA") is responsible for the operation, management and administration of the Susupe Sports Complex. To assure that participants and spectators are accorded adequate food and beverage services at the Complex, NMSA hereby requests proposals from currently licensed companies, experienced and capable of providing such services and wishing to be considered for a Contract to operate a food and beverage concession. The Contract term will be from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017.

NMSA will evaluate proposals and award a Contract for the concession service.

The RFP Package will be available until February 29, 2016 during business hours at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 11:30 a.m., at the Conference room at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Proposals are due no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan.

Proposers are required to pay a $50.00 non-refundable fee for each copy of the RFP.

NMSA assumes no obligation of any kind for expenses incurred by a respondent to this Notice.

All inquiries must be in writing, and sent to Michael A. White at fax no. 234-9537 or emailed to mwhite@saipan.com.

Manglona removes community service order vs sex offender

The federal court yesterday granted the U.S. Probation Office's recommendation that the condition ordering community work service be removed from the judgment against probationer Edwin P. Blas because he is a sex offender.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona modified the judgment to remove the community service considering that Blas did not oppose it.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola in his report on Monday informed the court that Blas has a previous local conviction for a sex offense, requiring him to maintain his registration on the Department of Public Safety's Sex Offender Registry.

Arriola said due to Blas' status as a sex offender, the U.S. Probation Office's community service partners cannot be expected to supervise him considering the liability should anything happen while he is performing his service.

The probation officer said this issue has been discussed with the probationer and that he understands the position of the U.S. Probation Office and agrees with the recommendation that such condition be removed.

Arriola also disclosed that Blas has not complied with some conditions of supervision by using alcohol on Jan. 5, 2016, and for late submission of monthly supervision report.

Arriola said the probationer reported to the U.S. Probation Office on Jan. 6, 2016, to submit his monthly supervision report.

When informed that the report was late, Blas explained that he was having transportation issues.

Arriola said the breathalyzer test in that visit showed a blood concentration of 0.54 and when confronted with the results, Blas admitted he had consumed six cans of beer the previous night.

Arriola said the probationer is aware that he is prohibited from consuming alcohol because his previous revocation of supervised release was related to alcohol use.

Due to his admission, Blas was instructed to report daily to the U.S. Probation Office for breathalyzer testing.

Arriola said before leaving the U.S. Probation Office, Blas submitted to a drug test and tested negative for use of illegal drugs.

On supervision compliance, the probationer paid off his $200 special assessment fee in 2001 and submitted to DNA collection in May 2010.

Blas is currently participating in substance abuse treatment and testing. His alcohol testing was reduced to thrice a week because of his continuing compliance to probation officer's instructions.

Arriola said he submitted the report to court for informational purposes and that no action is being requested at this time.

He said Blas will be monitored closely.

In 1999, the District Court sentenced Blas to 180 months in jail for hostage taking and for felon in possession of ammunition.

In July 2013, he completed his prison term and his five-year supervised release then commenced.

In April 2014, Blas' supervised release conditions were modified to include that he refrains from the use of alcoholic beverages.

In October 2014, the court revoked his supervised release for eight months due to continued alcohol use. He was then placed back on 52 months of supervised release. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MMAC to kicks off 2016 fight against cancer

Mark your calendars Saipan! The Marianas March Against Cancer's big 2016 event will be held on May 13 and this year's MMAC Committee is welcoming families, schools, businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to take part in the fight against cancer in the CNMI.

"This year we are building on the success of the previous Marches," said MMAC chair Geri Dela Cruz, "The March Against Cancer is an incredible event that brings nearly all members of our community together for a single and worthwhile focus and we are hoping to make this year bigger and better than ever before."

The Marianas March Against Cancer is an opportunity for community organizations, schools, businesses, and families to raise funds to support the Commonwealth Cancer Association and their work to assist individuals and families in the CNMI who are battling cancer.

Each year, members from various sectors of the community volunteer in MMAC Committee to plan and organize the event. This year Recruitment is chaired by Bobby Cruz and Catherine Attao-Toves, Sponsorship is chaired by Nola Hix and Jackie Che, Public Relations and Media is chaired by Matthew Deleon Guerrero and Carol Hosono, Luminaries is being chaired by Jenypy Sambile and Krizia Mendoza, T-Shirts is chaired by Diana Benevente and Krizia Mendoza, Logistics is chaired by Janine Nogis and Ricky Itibus, Survivors is chaired by Nola Hix and Jackie Che, Entertainment is chaired by Carol Hosono, Accounting is chaired by Manny Borja, Ashley Benevente, and Dan Brown, and Awards is chaired by Jenypy Sambile.

"The teams that have been regular fixtures on the MMAC field are truly an inspiration, and we are calling on all business, organizations, and groups throughout the CNMI to take part this year." Said Dela Cruz, "Its all for a great cause and it will be a night you won't forget!"

For more information or to sign up your team for the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer please email mmacteams@gmail.com or visit the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer Facebook page! ***(PR)***

FESTPAC orientation meeting on Friday

The Northern Mariana Islands Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC) Organizing Committee will hold an orientation meeting for all registered delegates on Friday, Feb. 12, 6pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. For more information, email Feofaaki McMahon at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at fe_mcmahon@yahoo.com or call (670) 322-9982/3. ***(PR)***

NEW PARADISE FLORIST
Valentine's Day
Special Arrangements
A OPTION
6 full bloom Roses with mini Roses in a Glass Vase
B OPTION
6 Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Glass Vase
C OPTION
1 Dozen Roses, Stuffed Toys, Chocolate, HVD Balloon & HVD Pick in a Glass Vase
We also have: Tulips Orchids Lucky Bamboo Fruit &Wine Basket Gift Basket Roses (Comes in Different Packaging) Chocolates Stuffed Toys HVD Balloons (Choices of Mylar or Latex)
To place your order, please call 233-9875 and look for Robert.
You can also visit our shop located in Middle Road, Gualo Rai across Shell Gas Station.
New Paradise Florist
MIDDLE ROAD
SHELL
FHB
PIZZA HUT

NOTICE OF SALE

The below described vehicle is set for auction.

This auction is being performed per order of the Superior Court in CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0299, MICHELE JOAB v. JOHN HOSONO and CAROLYN HOSONO:

White SPORT LIMITED EDITION 2006 TOYOTA RAV4 4X2 (VIN No. JTMZD31V765009457), Saipan, CNMI.

Any interested bidder may contact MICHELINE BREL at (670) 235-8060 or (670) 484-3950. Auction will take place at the parking lot of the D'Torres Building, Garapan on

February 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

SALE SHALL BE FINAL. NO WARRANTIES.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION PRIVATE

As of February 05, 2016

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc.	01/19/2016 SLR-2016-X-003	In-Water Vessel Maintenance	Outer Cove Marina	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/25/2016
2. DCRM, Rebecca Skeele	01/04/2016 S/R/TSm-2016-X-004	Filming & Photography	Saipan, Tinian & Rota	Shoreline	Approved, 01/25/2016
3. Shigeru Tomita	01/15/2016 SS/LR-2016-X-005	34th Micronesian Open Windsurfing Competition	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/27/2016
4. Hwang Yang Tack	01/27/2016 SPI-2016-X-006	Drydock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 01/29/2016
5. Michael E. Dilley	02/02/2016 SPI-2016-X-007	Land Clearing	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 02/04/2016
6. Sarandos Markos SPI-2016-X-008	02/02/2016	Drydock	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

TFC hopes to show more quality Pinoy films

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filipino Channel is aiming to show more quality Filipino films at Saipan's Regal Saipan Cinema Megaplex, the island's lone seven-auditorium theater. TFC will be showing for the first time the movie *Everything About Her* at Saipan Megaplex 7 on Friday, Feb. 12.

TFC marketing specialist James Redmond Chua, who is in charge of the CNMI, said more Filipino films shown on island would depend on the box office results of the movie that stars multi-awarded veteran Filipino actress Vilma Santos and former teen star Angel Locsin.

"This is the first time that a Star Cinema movie will be shown on Saipan. We are hoping to make this a regular event for the overseas Filipinos on Saipan," said Chua, who added that a separate screening is also scheduled in Guam.

He added that if most overseas Filipinos want to see more quality films from the Philippines, this could justify more movie screenings in the future. "We're really hoping that this first one becomes a big hit. We hope that this initial venture becomes successful through your [Filipino moviegoers] support," said Chua.

The movie being shown on Saipan is a partnership between TFC and Regal Entertainment Group, which operates Regal Saipan. The film has English subtitles for non-Filipino speaking moviegoers,

"We reached out to Regal Cinema and checked if they have available theaters to accommodate the movie," said Chua.

The movie, which was given a Grade A rating by the Cinema Evaluation Board of the Philippines, also stars Xian Lim as Santos' estranged son Albert. The CEBP grants tax incentives to films that receive Grade A or B ratings to encourage Filipino filmmakers to make more quality movies to increase the marketability of the Philippine cinema internationally.

The movie opened on Jan. 27 in the Philippines and was also shown on Jan. 29 in the U.S. (California, Texas, Alaska, Nevada, Hawaii, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, Washington State, New Jersey, and New York); in Europe (France, Italy, Malta, and Greece) on Jan. 31; the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait on Feb. 4; Canada on Feb. 5; Austria and the United Kingdom on Feb. 6; and Spain on Feb. 7. It will be shown in Australia on Feb. 11 and in Singapore on Feb. 21.

Little Red Book of Selling seminar on Feb. 18

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will host a seminar based on Jeffrey Gitomer's *Little Red Book of Selling* on Feb. 18 at the Kanoa Resort.

The *Little Red Book* of Selling is a *New York Times* Best Seller and this, along with Gitomer's 14 other books on sales, attitude, and customer service, has made Gitomer a desired speaker and advisor for Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. and Europe.

This class will focus on key aspects of sales that include networking, engaging and powerful questions, the 30-second commercial, attitude, preparation, and much more.

If you are telling yourself " I already know that stuff" " or " I have told my sales team that 100 times," let me ask you a question that might make you pause. "Are you or your sales team the master of these things?" No, then you are most likely losing sales to someone who is. This class will be just the catalyst and motivation to get you and your company on to sales excellence. The seminar will teach the skills needed to improve customer relationships that will want to make them buy from you, rather than you needing to sell to them.

This training is a must for anyone who has customers and has competitors. Whether you sell banquets and catering, print, radio or TV advertisement, insurance, wholesale of any kind, business telecommunications, computer, or cars. This is great for the new staff just on their first sales job or a 15-year veteran of sales. Everyone can benefit from this class.

There will be class discussion and exercises geared to get the participants to try new techniques for self-improvement and sales improvement. This class goes beyond just sales but incorporates Gitomer's "no-nonsense" style and attitude with topic focused video feeds from Gitomer just for this seminar, with the seminar moderated by Jim Arenovski, Gitomer Certified Advisors (GCA).

GCAs are personally trained by Gitomer and authorized to teach and present his content. Arenovski has not only been trained by Gitomer personally, but also recently became one of only a few elite trainers who have gone through Gitomer's advanced training.

The class will be held Thursday, Feb. 18, from 8am though 4pm. The seminar includes breakfast and lunch and a copy of Gitomer's *Little Red Book of Selling*. It costs $349 per person for Saipan Chamber of Commerce or $449 for non-members. Seats are limited and reservations are required.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at administrator@saipanchamber.com or call 234-7150 to reserve your seat today. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/SWMD16-IFB-001

GROUNDWATER, LEACHATE, AND GAS TESTING AT THE MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works, are soliciting sealed bids for the Groundwater, Leachate, and Gas Testing at the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after February 10, 2016 at the office of the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty-Five Dollars (**$25.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer, and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at Lower Base Transfer Station.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, under Article 7.

A mandatory Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for February 29, 2016, 09:00 a.m., local time, at the office of the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 p.m. to **Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director, Solid Waste Management Division,** Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the office of the Solid Waste Management Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the Director of Solid Waste Management Division office at (670) 322-2745/2760 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/SWMD16-IFB-001."** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (formerly Emergency Management Office behind CHRB Postal Office), Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, March 28, 2016. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, March 28, 2016, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 28, 2016, and must be received no later than April 06, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be caused for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill (formerly Emergency Management Office behind CHRB Postal Office), Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 07, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on March 28, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660." If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-245 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond. The contract to be awarded shall extend for a period of **two (2) years** from the date of Notice to Proceed issuance.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-003

APPLICATION OF ANTI-SKID AT DANDAN ROAD BETWEEN THE LOOP OF KAMMA PLACE, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Application of Anti-Skid at Dandan Road between the Loop of Kamma Place, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 27, 2016** at Departmnet of Public works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Deaprtment of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capital Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 12, 2016**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 26, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the proepective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW-16-IFB-003". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 9, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 9, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 9, 2016** and must be received no later than **March 18, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, March 21, 2016. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on March 9, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Thirty (30) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

6 rescued from grounded boat near Alamagan

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard rescued six mariners from a grounded fishing vessel near Alamagan Island, Monday.

"Cooperation between the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and a concerned citizen on Alamagan led to the successful rescue of these mariners," said Lt. William White, public affairs officer at Coast Guard Sector Guam. "With such a vast area of responsibility and a limited number of resources, we understand that cooperation is essential to providing search and rescue capabilities throughout the region."

The crew of the USCGC *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Guam, rescued all six men and safely transported them to awaiting EMS in Saipan. No injuries were reported.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam received notification from an individual on Alamagen Island, Sunday, that the 31-foot fishing vessel *Shekinah 2* grounded approximately 100 yards from shore.

Assateague's crew launched from Guam at 9am, Sunday, and transited more than 295 miles to *Shekinah 2*'s position.

The *Assateague* is an Island Class patrol boat. The crew is responsible for search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, ports waterways and coastal security, and national defense missions in Guam, the CNMI, and Oceania. ***(PR)***

U.S. COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard rescued six mariners from this 31-foot fishing vessel, *Shekinah 2*, after it ran aground near Alamagan Island, Feb. 7, 2016. USCGC *Assateague*, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Guam, rescued all six men and safely transported them to awaiting EMS on Saipan.

Crewmembers of *Shekinah 2* aboard the USCGC *Assateague*. U.S. COAST GUARD

USDA invests $24.1M in Western Pacific for FY'15

HILO, Hawaii—USDA Rural Development invested more than $24.1 million in various projects throughout the Western Pacific in Fiscal Year 2015. The programs targeted first-time home owners, home repair and rehabilitation, community facilities, business assistance and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"Our Rural Development programs showcase the dedication to our rural communities by touching so many aspects of everyday life for rural residents—from housing to business to facilities," said Chris Kanazawa, USDA Rural Development State Director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific. "Our local boots on the ground are imbedded in their communities and are able to help and provide assistance throughout the region. It's dedicated people like our Western Pacific area directors, Joseph Diego and Gary Bloom, and their staffs that work to promote USDA programs and ensure our rural communities know about available opportunities and applicable resources.

"In 2015, we were able to assist 89 families realize their dreams of becoming first-time homeowners through the more than $16.6 million in direct and guaranteed funds for housing that was approved," said Kanazawa. "An additional 118 families received $878,345 in low-interest loans and grants for home repairs to make their homes safe, decent and sanitary."

RD's 2015 Western Pacific investment includes more than $18.6 million in housing programs, $3.1 million in business programs and $2.3 million in community programs. Since the start of the Obama Administration in 2009, nearly $458 million has been invested in the region. The Western Pacific region encompasses Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau.

These investments were made available through RD's single family housing direct and guaranteed loan programs; the home repair and rehabilitation loan and grant program; Community Programs; the Business & Industry Guaranteed loan program; the Rural Energy for America Program; and other grant programs including the Rural Business Development Grant; Value-Added Producer Grant; and the High Energy Cost Grant.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities. ***(PR)***

Bordallo: N. Korea rocket launch provocative act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued the following statement on the recent rocket launch by North Korea.

"North Korea's recent launch of a supposed space satellite is nothing more than a provocative act masked to test a long range missile with offensive military implications. North Korea's continued aggressive actions are dangerous and destabilizing to our region. I appreciate the efforts of Secretary of State John Kerry, and the Obama Administration, to try to restart the 6-party talks, and urge China and Russia to support sanctions against North Korea. I am concerned that China and Russia continue to block efforts to impose sanctions or take other actions to get North Korea to stop acting in an aggressive manner.

Bordallo

"The United States stands by South Korea, and Guam will continue to play an important role in supporting our allies in the Asia-Pacific region. I am confident that our island remains safe from any threats from North Korea. However, we must do more to encourage China and Russia to act responsibly and encourage North Korea to dial down their provocative actions." ***(PR)***

CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Bartender Salary : $6.05 to $8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one year experienced working as a Bartender. Knowledge in different variety of cocktail, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcohol drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. A ""People Person"", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Computer literate. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) A/C Technician Salary : $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or eqivalent. At least to three years working experienced in the related fiels. Must have apprenticeship or on-the-job training and certification. E.P.A licensure is a plus. Knowledgeable in installing, maintaining and repairing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems, testing pipe or tubing joints, connections for leaks, testing electrical circuits,repairing or replacing defective equipment, components, or wiring, changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants. Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(5) General Maintenance Salary : $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least two to three years of work related experienced. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset but not required. Knowledge in keeping machines, mechanical equipment or other structure of an establishment in repair. Experience involving generators, water pumps, irrigation, deepwell, pipe fitting, insulating, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, building repair that may include carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting task. Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Electrician Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least twp to three years working experienced in the related field. Must be able to operate required tools, equipment, assemble, install, maintain, repair electrical aparatus, estimate cost of electrical materials. Knowledgeable in electrical theory and methods, applicable and federel code and regulations pertaining electricla trade, computer logic and programming, inspection and identification, and distribution of electrical system. Experienced in fabrication is preferred but not required.Must be able to perform physical activities, such as but not limited to, lifting equipment atleast 50lbs, bending, standing, climbng, can be able to work under the sun, and can stand for prolonged period if time. . Must be able to handle hazardous materials safety and tolarate exposure to electrical and other environmental hazards. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(3) Greenskeepers Salary: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least three months of work related experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring daily operations of the golf course greens. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices, handling chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Knowledge of safe, efficient mechanical equipment such as tractors, mowers, and driving other motorized equipment. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to follow oral and written directions. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for prolonged period of time and capable of lifting at least 50lbs. Pesticide applicator license preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(3) Cook (International Cuisine) Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal, neat nad well groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time.Full understanidng of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of International Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Room Division Manager Salary Range : $11.37 to $15.50
Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality or Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in an hotel industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset. A "People Person". Must be able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Landscapers Salary : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training. Considerable knowledge of methods of landscaping, occupational hazards and safety precautions applicable for grounds keeping, knows proper use of chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides, cultivation, weed control, seeding, planting of trees and nursing beds. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment. Knowledge of use and care of motorized equipment and hand/power tools used in grounds maintenance work. Job maybe require walking, standing, bending, lifting, climbing in a long period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions with excessive dusts or dirt, evenings, weekend and holidays.

(3) Waiter/Waitress Salary Range : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma one equivalent. At least three months of work related experience. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(7) Housekeepers Salary Range : $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Few months to one year related work experienced. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrival. Must be able to understand and follow instructions and out task in order and willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that includes bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literacy is preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

Front Desk Clerk (2-Korean Speaking) Salary: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid driver's CNMI license. be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Housekeeping Supervisor Salary: $6.05 to $9.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service including handling large group of arrival. Must have the ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned in everyday. Has the ability to be extent flexibility that included bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literate. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners.

(3) Cook (Western Cuisine) Salary: $6.05 to $8.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal, neat nad well groomed at all times. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time.Full understanidng of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of Western Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Golf Operation Manager Salary Range : $11.37 to $15.50
Bachelor's Degree Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in the capacity of Manager in related operation. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate or licensing as pesticide applicator. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time and can lift at least 50lbs . Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send their resume/application form to hr.copspn@gmail.com or submit it to Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Human Resources Department no later than February 15, 2016 @11:00 am. Please include at least two recommendation letters. No phone calls please.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 28

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

That $10 fee on oil is a good idea

With gas prices in the United States near historic 40-year lows when measured in 2016 dollars and the nation's transportation infrastructure rated no higher than a D-plus, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, one would think now is exactly the right time for a massive new investment in roads, bridges, airports and public transit. Yet surely the fastest speed achieved in this country last week wasn't on any highway or railroad track but was in Congress where House Speaker Paul Ryan and others practically broke the sound barrier in declaring President Barack Obama's proposed $10 per barrel fee on oil companies dead on arrival.

"The president should be proposing policies to grow our economy instead of sacrificing it to appease climate activists," Ryan said in a released statement.

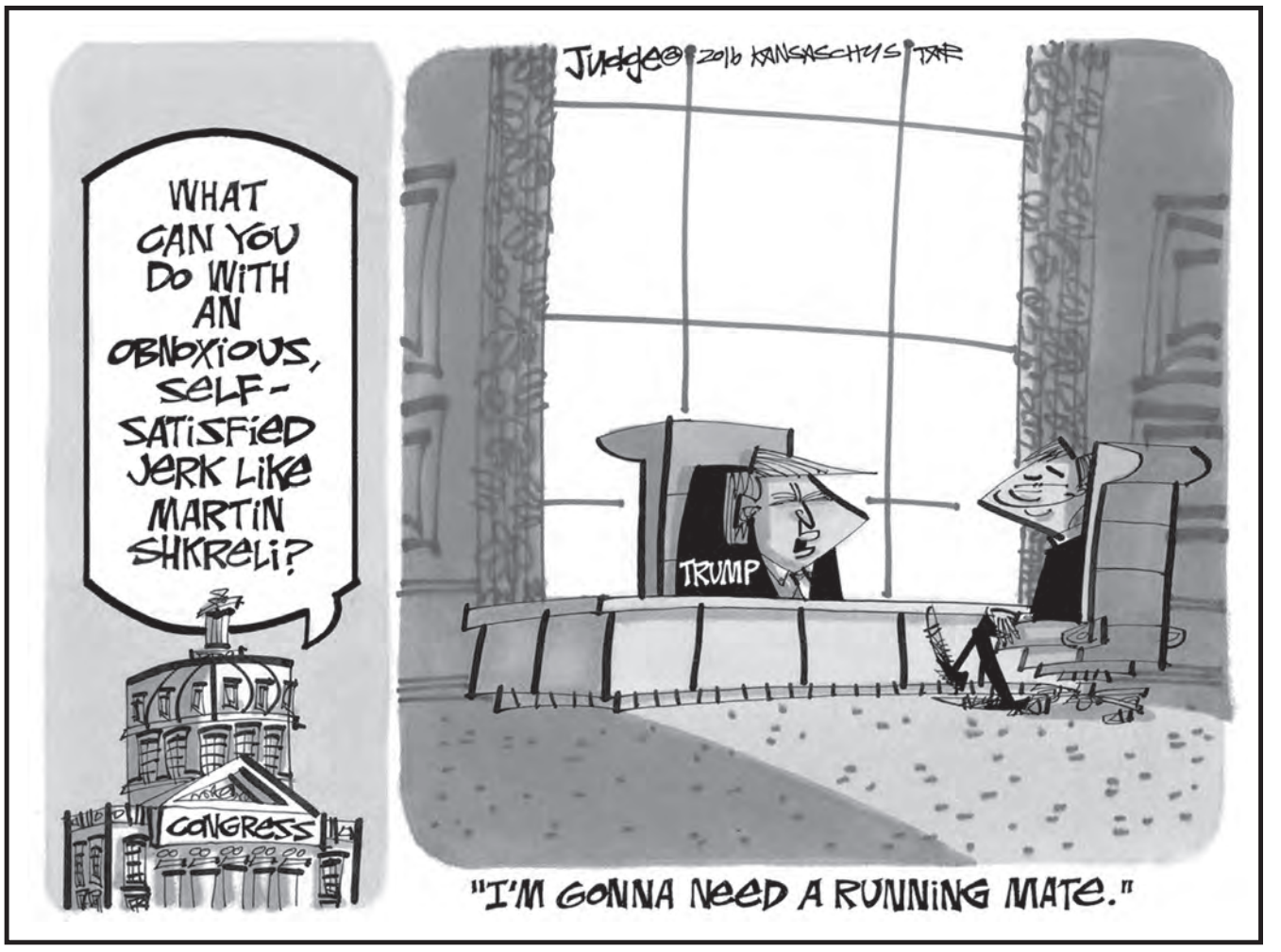
How easily Republicans slip into that knee-jerk response that a tax paid by anyone at any time under any circumstances is harmful to the economy. In reality, this nation faces a huge challenge just in staying competitive in the global market, a goal hampered by its D-plus transportation systems. Studies have suggested traffic congestion is costing the nation billions of dollars — as much as $293.1 billion by 2030, according to one estimate. Doing nothing about that problem is the economic threat Ryan should be worried about.

Climate change is a huge problem for the U.S. and the rest of the world, but even if greenhouse gases didn't exist — even if the oceans weren't rising and the threat of droughts and extreme weather wasn't growing as the world suffers record high carbon levels in the atmosphere — the country would still have to address its transportation funding deficit. For most of the last century, a tax on gasoline and other fuels has been the chief means of financing the federal government's share of the transportation system, but, unfortunately, Congress has failed to allow the tax to keep pace with inflation.

The president's critics are correct in one regard — placing a $10 per barrel tax on oil would likely raise prices at the pump. That the administration describes it as a "new fee on oil companies" may be technically true but sidesteps the reality that the cost will inevitably be passed along to consumers. But so what? Even if the full cost was passed along tomorrow (and the administration actually proposed a gradual phase-in over five years), it might translate to 18 cents more per gallon. As of Friday, the average cost of a gallon of unleaded was $1.76, or 39 cents per gallon less than it was a year ago, according to AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report.

Fine, gas tax haters may say, but why can't the federal government find some other means to pay for roads and other neglected infrastructure from existing resources? The answer: It's been tried, and it hasn't worked. Congress has in recent years provided stop-gap funding from elsewhere in the federal budget to try to keep the na-

See THAT on Next Page


JUDGE©2016 KANSASCITYS TAR
WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN OBNOXIOUS, SELF-SATISFIED JERK LIKE MARTIN SHKRELI?
CONGRESS
TRUMP
"I'M GONNA NEED A RUNNING MATE."

Xīnniánkuàilè

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

The title literally means, "Happy New Year!" But the greeting one normally hears in China, mostly from children, say, *Gong xi fa cái*! *Hóng bao ná lái*, "Congratulations and be prosperous; now give me a red envelope!" Red currencies are usually stuffed on red envelopes.

The Hangul phrase is *Saehae bok mani badeuseyo*, "Please receive a lot of luck in the New Year." In Japan, it is *Akemashite omedatou gozaimasu*, "Congratulations on an opening/beginning year." For Sinosphere, New Year's greetings vary depending upon the audience and the occasion, formally at a party or informally around the family table, except when addressing elders. The Lunar New Year begins a 15-day Spring Festival when one stuffs oneself with dumplings.

Saipan was treated with the lion dance performed to drive out evil spirits. The lion leapt and bounced in various places around Saipan. It is the Year of the Monkey with the animal representing an optimistic outlook, an ambitious activity, and adventurous mission.

The lion dance stopped in various locations, launched from TSL plaza, ended at World Resort, weaving stops through the JP Center, the Hyatt Regency, I Love Saipan, Canton Restaurant, Majesty Restaurant, IT&E (Middle Road), Subway, Century Hotel, Micro Beach Hotel, Fiesta Resort, Sunleader, Duty Free Shop, Louis Vuitton, and Best Sunshine. T'was a tired lion at sunset.

A decided emphasis on the Lunar New Year is "newness," the new moon being a primal symbol. In Asia, clearing one's duties and obligations is high priority, the financial slate cleaned and assured to be stable, and indebtedness foreclosed. A new face is put on, new clothes worn, and what is called "forgiveness" in Christian terms before it took a moralistic meaning is applied. A debt is not forgotten nor what is unpaid erased, but the face stays in the social circle, though often, it is simply tolerated. One's *mienzi* in China, *mentsu* in Japan, *chemyeon* in Korea, and *mukha* in 'Pinas are reassessed.

We won't say how we fared this year but my social face in certain places and meeting certain people will be veiled a while. But let us not get too deep into my failings!

It is the second half of the children's Lunar New Year greetings that seems to reflect a universal phenomenon of "Give Me." It is the notion, nay, a belief rooted in Egyptian skyward stance, a faith in the superstitious belief that an external entity is responsible for existence, and all one has to do is behave well and ask. The obeisance becomes a lifelong preoccupation. What starts as a privilege turns into an entitlement. I am not just referring to the American sense that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, makes existence all for my sake. I refer to the "Give Me" syndrome.

I do not know which stellar constellation the earth faces when we begin the first phase of the moon in its first month that marks solar and lunar New Years. The solar one, figured on the first day of spring when the earth's northern hemisphere tilts back toward the equator that Iran determined to start its calendar on the vernal equinox.

The first day of spring used to start the Christian calendar as well until a Bishop of the Roman Church decided that a child thought to be born in the spring is suddenly born at the onset of winter at its solstice, which happens to be the Feast of Bacchus in the old Roman calendar. To counter the pagan ethos, Christmas replaced the old Bacchanalian orgy in the Roman baths. How convenient. To be factual was not important; the power of symbols was. It also messed up the notion of a solar calendar that began on the first day of spring. Gregory latter dubbed it *anno domini*.

The lunar New Year cosmologically is the midpoint between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox, and this year, it is on Feb. 8 as the lion danced over fire cracking.

Saipan is in the equatorial belt, roughly between 23 degrees latitude north and 23 degrees latitude south. In a sense, we do not have seasons other than wet and dry. But many of the people who settled on our shores came from different reckonings of Mother Nature's patterns. Why we have four seasons when the weather is all sun, even during monsoon rains, is due to an imposition of presiding Masters, first the Europeans, and later the Americans and Japanese, like it was at home.

Now comes the lunisolar calendar of Sinosphere. The Spring Festival starts on Lunar New Year, traditionally lasting for 15 days. It is also 30 days winter school vacation so students' families reunite; recent urbanites return to visit left relations in countryside homes.

The 15-day Spring Festival that the Lunar New Year launches has cultural practices decided on the characteristic traits of animals (save the imaginal "dragon") in the Chinese Zodiac, rather than on the sun's elliptical journey before star constellations that grace the West's Zodiac.

In the full moon, just chopstick lots of dumplings! But leave some for the monkey!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Candle in the wind

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

This year is the midterm election. We begin hearing rumors galore of prospective candidates that include incumbents and newcomers. So discussion begins on the vetting process or ways to examine their qualifications. Should prove to be an interesting review!

The easiest way to choose candidates other than vote buying is to listen to their campaign by analyzing their expressions. It's vital to eliminate superficial rhetoric or fact from fiction. Some would try old and tired lies. Others are on the fence with wet pants fearful of being caught that they have become servile sycophants to a rich donor. No worries! I've done my homework.

"The cultural trait of gossip is a device. It goes without saying that it is a path not without effort, but it is effective because it relies on the truth." And it is more than skin deep. In brief, rumors in the islands are basically the truth. The only thing missing initially is confirmation. But what is spread has had to have its genesis somewhere.

Intuitively, the midterm election would turn into a contest of "war chests." Incumbents, especially the majority, would see their re-election paid for by their sugar daddy. Minority incumbents who recently jumped fence would have expenses bankrolled too as the newest slaves. It's the depressed economy and voters would be out to vote with their pocketbooks! And even if you take a backseat view to avoid scrutiny, you'd never make it.

The new and more promising candidates would have to deal with the headwind of less, but your survival is in sinking the message of integrity in servant leadership—serving others. I see cockroaches in you—quality that you're tough and could survive the challenge—where your voice would resonate well with voters.

Bribery would become even more vicious using locals as liaison to make their Lucifer's Pitch of fame and wealth that doesn't belong to them. They want you as slaves on their side where you almost instantly and obediently ask how high do you jump. Can they exact punishment if you stand your ground to stay clean?

Their fugitive balloon leaks slowly and wouldn't float and bounce like it once did in its initial days. And nothing would take the wind out of your sails. We will complete the journey of indigenous victory though a seeming candle in the wind.

Defining moment

This midterm election is our last chance to recapture what's ours in order to remap our destiny as the indigenous people of these islands. It's time to restore integrity and disposition that would enable us to guide our canoe forward amidst the brewing storm of corruption!

It's now or never! Our battle may be uphill but we shall conquer our goal. Our destiny belongs to no one else except we the indigenous people! Poor as we may be our powerful sense of humility embedded in our culture would carry us once more by uniting on every front. The challenge isn't insurmountable. We've been down this road before and we've prevailed! Remember 1979 when we first shot down casino? Let's repeat the history of victory of "we the people."

The quick spread of money to secure political control of the NMI by a rich corporation buying the loyalty of policymakers is but despicably humiliating and failed expected traction. Whatever happened to your sense of social conscience? Have you been completely inebriated and blurred by fear and greed for the misapplication of social responsibility?

Understood the primary reason for doing so in the full guard of exclusive perks we've never seen extended here to others. Thus, the all out agenda to re-elect their lap dogs to stand full guard on two issues that matter to them.

Their outreach or so-called corporate social responsibility is panting for air in desperado land. It has started crumbling in places the firm hasn't been able to see with critical eyes. If from the outset you've missed it the end result would reflect it.

For social responsibility to have any meaning and substance, then the firm should have left the decision of "we the people" alone. We said "no" twice yet you had the gall in concert with servile lap dogs to impose a decision contrary to the voice of our people? Isn't this the way it's done in communist countries? Did you forget that the NMI is a democracy?

Our people have been silent about the forced imposition of the casino industry. Their quietude is difficult to gauge. They are boiling mad at the lack of respect in their voice on this matter. They'd keep silent but are fully aware what they need to do to bring this issue to closure with finality. We've proven it since 1979!

We may be the candles in the wind but we will continue flickering and sputtering until the fire turns into a towering inferno of indigenous expression recapturing what's ours!

Kara` Si Mariana! Money you've worked for and earned through a job has many benefits especially the humble appreciation of the value of a dollar.

I know how hard it is living paycheck to paycheck on salaries that have remained the same for more than two decades. We cringe as the cost of basic goods take to the skies. For families with children in college the obligation to help turns into a task.

You cut expenses on every corner even juggling which bankbook to pay on a certain payday Friday. You get behind and must still fork out some more for late charges. Is there a chance salaries would increase anytime soon? Don't bet on it!

New revenue generation is a scarcity. Funds for the retirement program ends two-and-a-half years from now piled by an unfunded liability of some $789 million. Amidst a $510 million deficit how do we navigate bankruptcy? There's the budgetary shortfall of $9 million and $7 million last and this fiscal year. Does anybody know the NMI is literally bankrupt?

THAT

From Page 10

tion's transportation program afloat. The problem with this approach is that it's not only proven inadequate but expands the federal deficit. So average consumers actually get hit worse — billions in long-term debt payments for themselves and future generations to go along with billions of long-term congestion costs.

The beauty of a fuel tax of any kind is that it's a pay-as-you-go user fee that ought to leave the nation's transportation funding on autopilot and apart from the rest of the federal budget. The more fuel vehicles burn, the more their users pay for roads, bridges and other projects that accommodate them. Ultra-cheap prices at the pump are putting the country at risk in any number of ways — giving people an incentive to pollute more (which, in turn, is helping raise health care costs), not to invest in fuel efficiency and to more quickly use up finite oil resources. Why should Americans believe that the 18.4 cents per gallon tax last raised two decades ago is adequate today? It isn't, and no amount of denial by conservative politicians can change that fact.

We don't know what it will take for this era of Washington gridlock over adequate, long-term transportation funding to come to an end. Plenty of business groups support higher gasoline taxes, and most Americans do, too — at least if they're told how the money will be spent. Revenue-neutral proposals that would tax carbon, encouraging conservation by raising gas and electricity prices alike but also lowering other taxes to compensate consumers, have broad support as well. If a more sensible approach to transportation funding is regarded as instantly dead at a time of historically low gasoline prices, can reason ever prevail inside the Capital Beltway, let alone on it?

©2016 *The Baltimore Sun*

How to detect a lottery scam

CONSUMER CORNER
By TERESITA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Teresita Sablan serves as consumer counsel of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

You open the mail and—surprise!—you are the winner of the Foreign National Bank Lottery and need only wire a small $50 processing fee to a foreign bank to claim your $1-million jackpot. You think, this must be your lucky day: you didn't even buy a lottery ticket, and now you're going to be a millionaire—it's simply too good to be true. You're right, it is too good to be true. The described notice exhibits the telltale signs of fraud. Keep your hard-earned dollars and place the notice where it belongs: the trashcan.

Scammers are always on the prowl with schemes like these, but you can protect yourself from these tempting deceptions by recognizing a scam when you see one. Be on the lookout for the following signs of a scam:

■ You never entered the lottery. One sure sign that it's a scam: you never entered the lottery. If it were legitimate, you'd be familiar with it because you'd have taken an affirmative act to enter the lottery.

■ Money upfront. If you need to pay some sort of fee or tax before receiving your so-called prize, you can be certain that it's a scam. Do not send money. I repeat, do not send money—you'll never receive the promised award.

■ Wire payment. Be especially on guard for wire payments. Anyone who asks you to wire money is trying to avoid detection. Once you wire money, it's pretty much impossible to get it back. As a general rule, never wire money to someone who you do not know.

■ Bank information. Always be wary of any source asking for your bank information. If you're required to provide your bank information before receiving some prize, you can be sure that it's a scam. Don't be tempted by the lure of money—never provide your bank account information to an unknown solicitor.

■ Sounds too good to be true. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it's almost certain that it is. Don't fall for it.

Now that you know what to look out for, don't be fooled. If you encounter a suspected scam or if you believe you've been a victim of such a scam, report them to the Attorney General (cnmiconsumercounsel@gmail.com) and the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov).

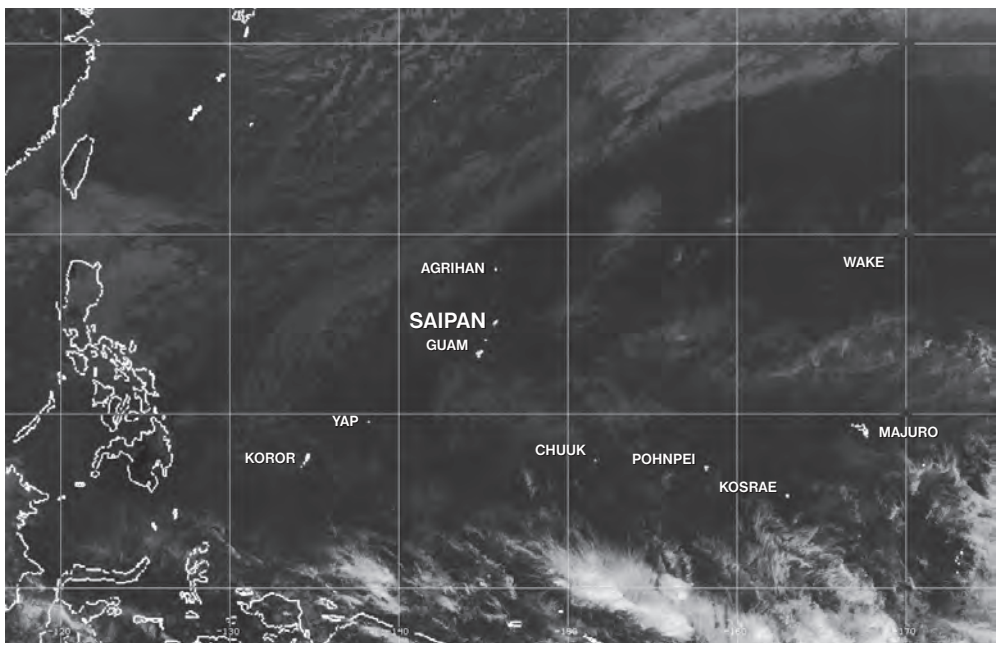
The information contained in this article is for general informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice to any individual or entity. This information is not intended to create, and the reading of it does not constitute, an attorney-client relationship.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:42 PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N154E to 20N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 13N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found northwest of Minami Tori Shima and the Marianas along and up to 250 miles northwest of these features. A shear line runs westward from 11N180 to near 13N155E. Cloudiness and patchy light showers are present north of the Marshall Islands along and up to 150 miles north of this boundary. Weak trade-wind disturbances are producing low-level clouds and showers south of Guam within 100 miles of a line from 12N144E to 10N150E to 11N154E and east of the far Northern Marianas within 70 miles of a line from 16N151E to 22N154E. Low-level convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well south of Chuuk, south of a line from 2N150E to 1N158E and well southwest of Majuro south of a line from 1N174E to 3N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲82	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲83	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲50	▼31
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼65
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼33
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼72
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼60
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼53
New York	Cloudy	▲37	▼33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼36
Pusan	Sunny	▲52	▼40
Rome	Windy	▲57	▼40
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲48	▼29
Tokyo	Windy	▲51	▼34
Washington, DC	Snow	▲38	▼30

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
9:25 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:45 AM	7:56 PM
Thursday	8:34 AM	8:56 PM
Friday	9:22 AM	9:54 PM
Saturday	10:10 AM	10:53 PM
Sunday	10:59 AM	11:52 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

2016 Lunar New Year Celebration

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Korean Association of Saipan president Hyung Kyun Kim, sixth left, and Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI president Jerry Tan, fifth left, lead the ceremonial toast in last Saturday's beginning of festivities for the Lunar New Year at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Lion dancers perform at the Saipan World Resort lobby.

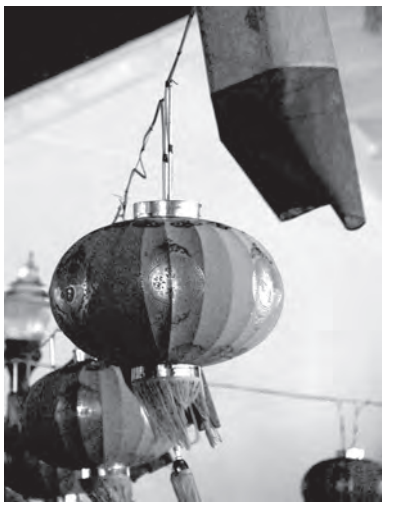
CAS lion dancers prepare to perform in front of the Dollar Days store in Garapan. The lion protects and wards off evil spirits according to Chinese culture.

Saipan World Resort food and beverage manager Rogelio Caruana, center, joins lion dancers after their performance.

Lion dancers enter the J.P. Center office in Garapan.

Lion dancers shout a Happy New Year greeting before performing in front of the Transamerica office in Gualo Rai.

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio M. Arago, third left, poses with one of the lion dancers and employees at the J.P. Center office in Garapan.



Unlit Chinese and Korean paper lanterns adorn the Paseo de Marianas in celebration of the Lunar New Year.

Close to 100 Chinese and Korean paper lanterns light up the Paseo de Marianas.

Lion dancers from CAS, CNMI scatter the pieces of cabbage they plucked that was hanging at the Century Hotel door in Garapan. The cabbage, with its green color, is representing money that the Chinese believe that by scattering it would also keep you bountiful for the whole year.

Business

UN agency proposes greenhouse gas emissions rules for planes

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.N. panel on Monday proposed long-sought greenhouse gas emissions standards for airliners and cargo planes, but they were quickly criticized by environmentalists as too weak to actually slow global warming.

The International Civil Aviation Organization said the agreement reached by 170 international experts requires new aircraft designs meet the standards beginning in 2020, and that designs already in production comply three years later. There is also a cutoff date of 2028 for the manufacture of planes that don't comply with the standards. The standard must still be adopted by the agency's 36-nation governing council.

AP

In this photo taken March 24, 2015, an Alaska Airlines jet takes off at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in SeaTac, Wash.

The standards would be the first ever to impose binding energy efficiency and carbon dioxide reduction targets for the aviation sector. They would require an average 4 percent reduction in fuel consumption during the cruise phase of flight starting in 2028 when compared with planes delivered in 2015. However, planes burn the most fuel during takeoffs and landings.

"It calls for about a third of the technically feasible efficiency improvements that we estimate will be available for new aircraft designs when the standard takes effect," said Dan Rutherford, aviation direction of the International Council on Clean Transportation.

But Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, president of the ICAO council, said ICAO's goal "is ultimately to ensure that when the next generation of aircraft types enters service, there will be guaranteed reductions in international carbon emissions,

Environmentalists also complained that ICAO has been working on international standards for 18 years and is now proposing to give aircraft manufacturers another dozen years to comply.

"These dangerously weak recommendations put the Obama administration under enormous pressure to take U.S. action against airplane pollution," said Vera Pardee, a Center for Biological Diversity attorney who has sued the U.S. government over aviation emissions.

Last June, the Obama administration proposed regulating aircraft emissions, saying they are a threat to human health because they contain pollutants that help cause global warming. But a final U.S. decision on adoption of international standards is likely to be left to the next presidential administration. EPA officials said at the time that the earliest the agency is likely to propose adoption of ICAO standards would be in 2017.

Boeing is the United States' largest exporter as measured in dollar value. The company vies with Airbus for the title of world's largest aircraft maker.

The newest Boeing and Airbus designs already meet the proposed efficiency standards, due to demands for fuel savings from the airlines, environmentalists said. In the meantime, the manufacturers get to continue selling older, less efficient designs for years to come. Airliners in use now are exempt from the new standards altogether, meaning even dirtier planes can continue to fly.

Govt report: 8 states had significant drop in uninsured

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eight states saw a significant drop last year in the number of residents going without health insurance, according to a government report out Tuesday that has implications for the presidential campaign.

All but Florida had accepted a Medicaid expansion that is one of two major pathways to coverage under President Barack Obama's health care law. The law's other coverage route is subsidized private insurance, available in all 50 states.

GOP presidential candidates are vowing to repeal "Obamacare," while offering hardly any detail on how they'd replace it without millions losing coverage.

Politically, the eight states with statistically significant coverage gains in the National Health Interview Survey are a mix of red, blue and purple. They are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, and New York. Five have GOP governors.

As a whole, the nation had an uninsured rate of 9.1 percent during the first nine months of 2015, according to the survey, an ongoing research project by a unit of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The uninsured rate was 14.4 percent in 2013, before the law's big coverage expansion.

The federal report does not analyze the reasons for the coverage gains, but independent experts say the trend is due to the Obama health care law, boosted by economic recovery.

That poses a dilemma for Republican presidential candidates. Indeed, a recent blueprint from a group of conservative policy experts for replacing the health law said Republicans will need some kind of "grandfathering exemption" to avoid disrupting the lives of people who have gained coverage through the Affordable Care Act.

The new state numbers from the National Center for Health Statistics focus on adults ages 18-64. That's because virtually all seniors have coverage, and fewer than 5 percent of children and teens are uninsured.

India Internet ruling blocks Facebook 'Free Basics' program

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—India's government has essentially banned a Facebook program that sought to connect with low-income residents by offering free access to a limited version of the social network and other Internet services.

The ruling is a major setback for Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who had lobbied hard for the program as part of a campaign to expand Internet access in developing countries. It's a victory for critics who argued that Facebook's "Free Basics" program gave an unfair advantage to some Internet services over others.

Facebook has introduced "Free Basics" in partnership with wireless carriers in dozens of emerging nations, where the company hopes to get more people online. The service provides free access to a stripped-down version of Facebook and certain other Internet sites—including some that provide essential information like weather forecasts, health education and job listings.

But the program has sparked debate in some countries, particularly India, where critics contend that "Free Basics" effectively steers users toward Facebook and its partners, while making it harder for other Internet services—including homegrown startups—to build their own audiences.

In a much-awaited decision Monday, Indian regulators said telecommunications providers may not charge different or "discriminatory" rates for delivering different kinds of Internet content.

The ruling essentially bans programs like "Free Basics" that are based on what's known as "zero rating" in industry jargon, because they don't charge for downloading certain kinds of data. In a policy memo, Indian regulators warned that such programs raise the risk that users' "knowledge and outlook ... would be shaped only by the information made available by those select offerings."

The regulators said their decision was guided by the principles of net neutrality, or the concept that all websites and apps should be treated equally by Internet access providers. Net neutrality advocates contend that charging different rates based on content is unfair both to consumers and to Internet services that are competing for consumers' attention.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Honda to recall new Civics because engines can fail

DETROIT (AP)—Honda is recalling about 45,000 newly redesigned Civic compact cars in the U.S. and Canada because the engines can fail and stall while being driven. The recall affects 2016 Civics equipped with 2-liter four-cylinder engines. Documents filed by Canadian safety regulators say that a circular clip around the pistons may be missing or was improperly installed at the factory. That can cause a pin on the piston to rub against the engine block and possibly cause engine failure or a fire. It was unclear if any crashes, fires or injuries had happened. Dealers will inspect the piston clips and fix them if necessary. In the U.S., dealers can't sell the affected cars until they are repaired. The recall covers about 34,000 Civics in the U.S. and roughly 11,000 in Canada.

Mazda recalls SUVs due to risk of fuel filler pipe ruptures

DETROIT (AP)—Mazda is recalling some SUVs because the fuel filler pipe can rupture in a rear crash and cause a gas leak and possible fire. The recall covers nearly 237,000 CX-5 SUVs from the 2014 and 2015 model years. The problem was discovered in crash testing when the pipe ruptured and spilled fuel that exceeded limits set by crash test standards. Mazda says it has no reports of any fires or injuries. Dealers will remove a bolt on the left side of the pipe, redirecting the rear crash impact to prevent pipe ruptures, according to documents filed by Canadian safety regulators.

Cyprus ends tender for medium-term gas supply

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus' Natural Gas Co. says it has ended a two-year bid to find suppliers of natural gas to fire up the east Mediterranean island's main power plant. The company, or DEFA, said in brief statement Monday that it was "unable to agree terms" for the supply of gas with any bidder. It said bidders have been notified that the tender is concluded, offering no other details. The agreement would have provided for the supply of gas over seven years with the possibility of extending that to 10 years. U.S. company Noble Energy recently discovered a field off Cyprus estimated to hold more than 4 trillion cubic feet of gas. France's Total and Italy's Eni in partnership with Korea's KOGAS are also licensed to search for oil and gas off Cyprus.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
16,027.05	1,853.44	4,283.75
-177.92	-26.61	-79.39
-1.10%	-26.61	-1.82%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4202	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7925	Philippine Peso	47.7495
British Pound	0.6934	Indian Rupee	68.21	Singapore Dollar	1.255
Canadian Dollar	1.3941	Indonesian Rupiah	13660	South Korean Won	1.4033
Chinese Yuan	6.5695	Japanese Yen	114.66	Swiss Franc	0.9845
Euro	0.8919	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1886	Taiwan Dollar	33.368
		New Zealand Dollar	1.5148	Thailand Baht	35.407

Nation

Reborn Maine mill town offers lessons amid refugee crisis

LEWISTON, Maine (AP)—The arrival of thousands of Somali refugees in this former mill city in the nation's whitest state sparked a backlash at first, complete with a rally of white supremacists and a pig's head rolled into the local mosque.

Fifteen years later, the Somali newcomers are solid members of the community, as evidenced by its proliferation of shops, restaurants and mosques—and a championship-winning high school soccer team featuring players from Somalia and other African countries.

Shukri Abasheikh, owner of Mogadishu Store, a general store that caters to the African community, said she and her fellow newcomers have won respect from residents through hard work.

"When Somalis came in, Lewiston people, Maine people, they think we need welfare, but we don't need welfare. We need jobs. We need peace. We need education," said Abasheikh, who worked as a janitor before achieving her dream of running her own business.

As the U.S. prepares to accept thousands of refugees from war-torn Syria in coming months and years, this riverside community illuminates the challenges such newcomers can face—and shows that integration can be slow and painful, but ultimately successful.

Since February 2001, more than 5,000 Africans have come to Lewiston, a city of 36,500 on the Androscoggin River, in a prime example of what scholars call "rapid ethnic diversification."

The first Somalis found Lewiston after a refugee resettlement program was established in Portland, Maine's largest city.

Because of a housing shortage in Portland, they looked 30 miles to the north, where

AP
In this Monday, Dec. 14, 2015 photo, Austin Wing, left, and Abdi Shariff check out pictures on Shariff's phone at Lewiston High School in Lewiston, Maine.

aging apartments that once housed Lewiston's mill workers provided plenty of low-cost homes. Despite the bitter winters, Somalis saw a safe place with good schools that was walkable and not too big.

There was no formal plan. It just happened.

At first, Lewiston residents didn't know what to make of these newcomers who spoke no English, providing a challenge for schools. Many knew little of Somalia beyond news coverage of a soldier from a nearby town who was killed in a Somali firefight that became the basis for the movie "Black Hawk Down."

Some locals resented so many black Muslims moving to a Roman Catholic community where the twin spires of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul dominate the skyline. Rumors spread that the newcomers were getting perks like better housing and even free cars.

Then came a letter from the mayor to the Somali community in 2002, asking them to discourage their friends and family from moving to Lewiston, saying "our city is maxed-out financially, physically and emotionally."

An out-of-state white supremacist group seized upon the discord to hold a rally.

Residents were bewildered to find their community painted as racist in the national news, and that low point became a turning point. They began to embrace the Somali community, and thousands staged a support rally far larger than the handful of people with the white supremacists.

"That was definitely eye-opening, to see that they support and accept us," said Abdirahman Mohamud, Abasheikh's son, who grew up in Lewiston.

Three years after the rally, when someone rolled the pig's head into the mosque, swift condemnations followed. The governor at the time visited Lewiston to denounce the act, and police quickly charged the perpetrator.

Legislatures consider special protections for gun industry

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—A terse letter from Andrew Clyde's credit card-processing company explained it was discontinuing his corporate account because his Georgia firearms business "no longer met our underwriting guidelines." In a panic, Clyde called three other companies, which denied him, too.

After hearing from Clyde and others in the gun business who reported similar treatment, the industry's trade association launched efforts in several Republican-led Legislatures over the past year seeking to restrict discrimination by financial institutions.

But the legislation being pushed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation wouldn't offer a blanket protection for all businesses—just those "engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products."

"You have to think that someone's targeting us," said Clyde, who is set to testify on Georgia's version of the bill during a legislative hearing Tuesday.

Similar legislation being considered in Kansas, Alabama and Missouri also was initiated by the NSSF in response to an effort started in 2013 by the U.S. Department of Justice called Operation Choke Point. The program sought to curtail financial institutions from engaging in business with what it deemed high-risk industries for fraud, such as pornography and firearms.

The program ended last year, when the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation sent a letter to banks informing them to take a risk-based approach instead of denying services. But the NSSF said gun retailers and manufacturers are continuing to report what they say is discrimination.

Critics aren't so sure and argue that the legislation is about protecting one industry, not targeting discrimination.

In Kansas, lobbyists unsuccessfully tried last month to tack on amendments expanding the nondiscrimination protection to include gender identity, sexual orientation and abortion rights. Ralph Ostmeyer, chairman of the Kansas Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, said the bill needed to stay focused on guns.

"Just as a person or trade association engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms or ammunition products should not be subject to discrimination because of the nature of their business, so too should a politically controversial organization providing constitutionally protected services such as safe and legal abortions also be protected from discrimination," Elise Higgins, a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said during the hearing.

Lead contamination of Flint water draws multiple lawsuits

DETROIT (AP)—One lawsuit seeks to replace lead-leaching water lines at no cost to customers. Another seeks money for thousands of Flint residents who unwittingly drank toxic water. A third complaint has been filed on behalf of people with Legionnaires' disease.

While government officials scramble to rid Flint's tap water of lead, victims are suing Gov. Rick Snyder, the former mayor, rank-and-file public employees and almost anyone else who may have had a role in supplying the troubled city with corrosive river water for 18 months. The lawsuits accuse them of violating civil rights, wrecking property values and enriching themselves by selling a contaminated product.

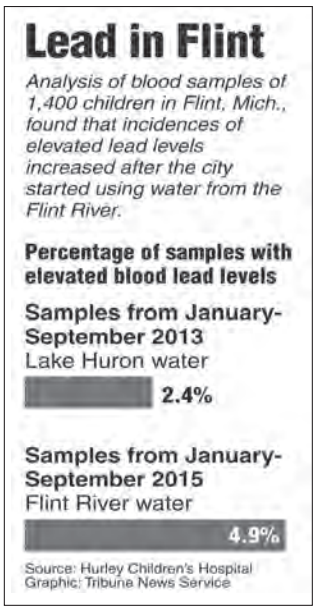
"How can they look at themselves in the mirror?" asked New York attorney Hunter Shkolnik, who filed the latest lawsuit Monday on behalf of 2-year-old Sophia Waid. "It's an embarrassment for government officials to take the safety of their citizens so lightly."

Sophia's father, Luke Waid, said he feared losing custody of his daughter when blood tests revealed that she had elevated levels of lead. Those tests were done long before Flint's tap water was identified as the culprit in 2015.

Lead affects the central nervous system, especially in children aged 6 and younger, and can cause learning problems and hyperactivity.

"She's constantly on edge," Waid said of his daughter. "It's almost like she's suffering some kind of anxiety."

His lawsuit, which seeks an unspecified financial award, is one of at least seven complaints involving Flint in state and federal courts. It's the first by Shkolnik and Detroit co-counsel Brian McKeen, but the lawyers plan more.


Lead in Flint
Analysis of blood samples of 1,400 children in Flint, Mich., found that incidences of elevated lead levels increased after the city started using water from the Flint River.
Percentage of samples with elevated blood lead levels
Samples from January-September 2013
Lake Huron water
2.4%
Samples from January-September 2015
Flint River water
4.9%
Source: Hurley Children's Hospital
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Chicago teen's death shines light on police code of silence

CHICAGO (AP)—For more than a year after an officer shot and killed a black teen named Laquan McDonald, the Chicago Police Department had video footage that raised serious doubts about whether other officers at the scene tried in their reports to cover up what prosecutors now contend was murder.

Not until 15 months later was one of those officers and a detective who concluded the shooting was justified put on desk duty. At least eight other officers failed to recount the same scene that unfolded on the video. All of them remain on the street, according to the department.

The lack of swift action illustrates the difficulty of confronting the "code of silence" that has long been associated with police in Chicago and elsewhere. The obstacles include disciplinary practices that prevent the police chief himself from firing problem officers and a labor contract that prevents officers from being held accountable if a video surfaces that contradicts their testimony.

"If they are not going to analyze officers' reports and compare them to objective evidence like the video, why would the officers ever stop lying?" asked Craig Futterman, a University of Chicago law professor who helped force the city to release the video.

Of the eight officers, six said they did not see who fired, and three depicted McDonald as more threatening than he appeared. One claimed the teen tried to get up with a knife still in his hand. The footage clearly showed him falling down and lying motionless on the pavement.

Van Dyke, who emptied his entire 16-round magazine into McDonald, is now awaiting trial on first-degree murder charges. He has been suspended without pay while the department tries to fire him.

City officials say they are cracking down on traditions associated with the code and even questioning applicants for police superintendent about how they would stop officers from lying to protect colleagues.

Chicago isn't the only major city where officers sworn to tell the truth are suspected of covering for each other. In Los Angeles, three sheriff's deputies were convicted last year of beating a handcuffed jail visitor and then trying to cover it up. In that case, a plea bargain with two former deputies helped prosecutors expose what they said was a code of silence.

Asia

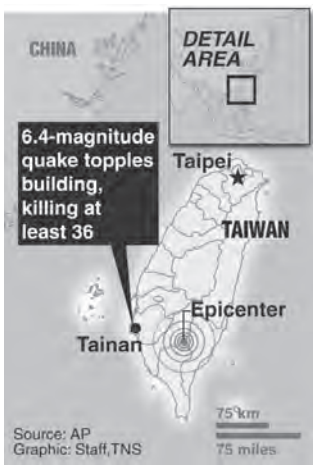
Search for life continues at Taiwan complex toppled by quake

TAINAN, Taiwan (AP)—Rescuers using cranes, dogs and electronic devices searched for survivors Tuesday in a high-rise apartment complex in southern Taiwan that was toppled three days earlier by a powerful earthquake.

The death toll in Saturday's disaster stood at 40, while 320 people had been rescued, the Tainan city government said on its official website.

More than 100 people are believed to still be under the debris following the tragedy that struck during the most important family holiday in the Chinese calendar—the Lunar New Year.

All but two of the casualties in the quake were recorded in the collapse of Tainan's Weiguan Golden Dragon 17-story complex. Although the shallow 6.4-magnitude quake was potentially devastating, few buildings were damaged as a result of strict construction standards in force on an island that is frequently struck by quakes.



Most of those who survived were rescued in the hours immediately after the quake, in which the building collapsed onto itself before toppling.

Ko Ching-chung said he had propped himself against a wall to avoid falling onto his girlfriend after the quake hit just before 4 a.m. But after 20 hours, he could no longer hold on and collapsed onto her.

"She would have soon not been able to breath. I said to her I had to lay on top of her and she said to me it's OK," Ko told reporters at the hospital where he was recovering.

AP
Rescue workers carry a man from the site of a toppled building after an earthquake in Tainan, Taiwan, Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016.

Five survivors were believed to have been pulled out on Sunday, and at least four on Monday. One of them, Tsao Wei-ling, called out "Here I am" as rescuers dug through to find her.

She was found under the body of her husband, who had shielded her from a collapsed beam, the government-run Central News Agency reported. Tsao's husband and 2-year-son were found dead, and five other members of the family remained unaccounted for, it said.

Teams also rescued a 42-year-old man on Monday, and, later, an 8-year-old girl, who had been trapped for more than 61 hours.

Mayor Lai Ching-Te told reporters he briefly exchanged words with the girl, Lin Su-chin.

"She is awake, but looks dehydrated, lost some temperature but she's awake and her blood pressure is OK," he said. "I asked her if there's anything wrong with her body. She shook her head."

Shortly afterward, rescue workers also pulled out a 28-year-old Vietnamese woman, identified as Chen Mei-jih, who had been trapped on what was the building's fifth floor. Family members of the missing flooded into the information center in search of their loved ones or to wait anxiously.

Tensions rose as some relatives, losing patience, demanded to speak to rescue workers directly to get the latest information.

A couple sitting in a small room where officials release information said they had heard no news about their daughter-in-law and two young grandsons.

"Does that mean we are here to wait for bodies?" grandfather Liu Meng-hsun cried out angrily.

Earthquakes rattle Taiwan frequently. Most are minor and cause little or no damage, though a magnitude-7.6 quake in central Taiwan in 1999 killed more than 2,300 people.

Hong Kong activists, police clash over holiday food stalls

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's Lunar New Year celebration descended into chaotic scenes as protesters and police, who fired warning shots into the air, clashed over a street market selling fish balls and other local holiday delicacies, leaving dozens injured and arrested.

The violence is the worst in Hong Kong since pro-democracy protests rocked the city in 2014, leaving a growing trust gap between the public and authorities.

Activists angered over authorities' attempts to crack down on the food hawkers in a crowded Kowloon neighborhood held running battles with police into the early morning hours of Tuesday.

Protesters pelted officers with bottles and pieces of trash. Some threw garbage cans, plastic safety barriers and wood from shipping pallets at them. They also set fires on the street.

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying told reporters a mob had attacked police officers and journalists, and said the perpetrators would be prosecuted.

Police cars and public property were damaged, fires started and bricks and other objects thrown at police officers, including those already injured and lying on the ground, Leung said.

"I believe the public can see for themselves from TV news reports the seriousness of the situation. The (Hong Kong) government strongly condemns such violent acts. The police will apprehend the mobs and bring them to justice," Leung said.

Officials said they were investigating whether the violence had been organized in advance.

At one point, a protester tried to tackle a traffic police officer from behind before both sides rush in to the melee in the middle of a busy street, according to footage shown by local news channel Cable TV. Moments later, another officer appeared to fire two warning shots into the air.

North Korea's new satellite flew over Super Bowl site

TOKYO (AP)—Here's a bit of Super Bowl trivia: North Korea's newest satellite passed almost right over the stadium just an hour after it ended.

Whatever motives Pyongyang may have about using its rocket launches to develop nuclear-tipped long-range missiles, it now has two satellites circling the Earth, according to NORAD, the North American Aerospace Command, which monitors all satellites in orbit.

Both of the Kwangmyongsong, or "Shining Star," satellites complete their orbits in about 94 minutes and based on data released by international organizations tracking them, the new one passed almost right over Levi's Stadium about an hour after the Super Bowl ended.

"It passed almost directly overhead Silicon Valley, which is where I am and where the stadium is," tech watcher Martyn Williams said in an email to The Associated Press. "The pass happened at 8:26 p.m., after the game. I would put it down to nothing more than a coincidence, but an interesting one."

The game in Santa Clara, California, ended at 7:25 p.m. local time.

North Korea claims Sunday's successful satellite launch was its fourth.

The first two have never been confirmed by anyone else, but experts worldwide agree it got one into orbit in 2012 and NORAD, which is hardly a propaganda mouthpiece for Pyongyang, now has both that and the satellite launched on Sunday on its official satellite list.

Kwangmyongsong 4, the satellite launched Sunday, has the NORAD catalog number 41332 and Kwangmyongsong 3-2, launched in 2012, is 39026. They are described as Earth observation satellites, and weigh about 100 kilograms (220 pounds) apiece.

Their main applications, according to Pyongyang, are monitoring the weather, mapping natural resources and forest distributions and providing data that might help farmers improve their crops.

North Korea's state-run media quoted scientists and researchers at the North's State Hydro-Meteorological Administration as saying Sunday they are "are delighted at the news" of the launch. Its deputy director, Ryu Pong Chol, reportedly said it will give a big boost to North Korean weather forecasters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH autonomy delay stalls disarming of Muslim rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine rebel leader says Congress' failure to pass a Muslim autonomy bill as part of a new peace pact will delay a program to disarm thousands of guerrillas in the country's south. Mohagher Iqbal said Monday that his rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, will stick with the 2014 peace agreement it signed with the Philippine government despite the setback. However, he said the delay in enacting the bill, which aims to establish a more powerful autonomous region for minority Muslims, has caused deep frustration among guerrillas which the rebel group is trying to ease. Legislators ended their regular session last week without passing the bill, which stalled after some rebels became involved in a clash that killed 44 police commandos early last year.

Top PH diplomat and China critic resigns over health

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' top diplomat, who was behind a bold government move to challenge the validity of China's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea at an international tribunal, has resigned due to health reasons, officials said Monday. President Benigno Aquino III has accepted Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario's resignation, which will take effect on March 7, presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma Jr. said. The U.S.-educated del Rosario, 76, has been an outspoken critic among the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations of China's increasingly assertive stance in the disputed waters. Four governments in the 10-nation bloc—Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—have been locked in a territorial conflict with China in the South China Sea. Taiwan is also involved in the disputes, which escalated when China recently transformed seven disputed reefs into islands that can be used to project its military might.

Sushil Koirala, Nepal's former prime minister, dies at 78

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Sushil Koirala, a former Nepalese prime minister and leader of nation's largest political party, has died in Kathmandu. He was 78. His doctor, Karbir Nath Yogi, said Tuesday that Koirala died due to complications from pneumonia and respiratory failure. Koirala was a key figure in adoption of Nepal's new constitution last September with overwhelming support in the Constitution Assembly. Koirala spent his life in politics fighting for democracy in Nepal and was one of the leading activists in protests in 2006 that ended a centuries-old monarchy system and turned Nepal into a republic. He never married and spent at least six years in prison and years in exile in neighboring India. His body will be kept at the party's headquarters in Kathmandu.

World

More than 1M are besieged in Syria, new report says

NEW YORK (AP)—More than one million Syrians are trapped in besieged areas, a new report says in a challenge to the United Nations, which estimates just half that amount and has been accused by some aid groups of underplaying a crisis.

The fate of Syria's besieged is at the heart of peace talks that quickly fell apart last week in Geneva and are set to resume by Feb. 25. Negotiators for the opposition had insisted that the Syrian government stop besieging civilians before talks could truly begin.

The new Siege Watch report, issued Tuesday by the Netherlands-based aid group PAX and the Washington-based Syria Institute, comes a month after images posted online of emaciated children and adults led to an international outcry and rare convoys of aid to a handful of Syrian communities.

The town featured in the images, Madaya, was not listed by the U.N. as a besieged community at the time. Aid workers who entered last month reported seeing skeletal people and parents who gave their children sleeping pills to calm their hunger.

The Siege Watch report says 1.09 million people are living in 46 besieged communities in Syria, far more than the 18 listed by the U.N. It says most are besieged by the Syrian government in the suburbs of Damascus, the capital, and Homs. In the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, about 200,000 people are besieged by both the Islamic State group and the Syrian government. The report lists two communities besieged by armed opposition groups.

"Electricity and running water are usually cut off, and there is limited (if any) access to food, fuel, and medical care," the report says. Deaths have been reported from malnutrition, disease, hypothermia and poisoning while scavenging for food. Some communities have been besieged for months or years.

The estimates are based largely on information provided by local contacts in the communities, including local councils, medical workers and citizen journalists.

With the spotlight on the besieged, the United Nations last month raised its estimate by almost 100,000, saying that 486,700 people are affected.

That's still less than some aid groups and others estimate. They argue that the world body's numbers set the tone for humanitarian response efforts and that more urgency is needed.

"Many remain unaware of the extent of the crisis, and the international response has been muted as a result," the Siege Watch report says.

In meetings this week with U.N. officials and member states, PAX says it will call for the immediate lifting of sieges as a way to build confidence in the peace talks. Syria Institute executive director Valerie Szybala said the new report has not been shared with Syria's government.

AP

In this Monday, Jan. 11, 2016 file photo, people wait to leave the besieged town of Madaya, northwest of Damascus, Syria, where Doctors Without Borders says dozens of people have died of starvation since September.

Pope's visit to violent Mexican city highlights broader ills

ECATEPEC, Mexico (AP)—One evening in September 2014, Mariana Yanez left her home in this crime-plagued Mexico City suburb saying she was going to make some photocopies. Then she vanished.

Months later, authorities called her mother to say her 18-year-old daughter's head and thighs had been found in a sack in a sewage-choked canal, but provided no other details.

Yanez's disappearance is a story shared by all too many in Mexico and nowhere more so than Ecatepec, where Pope Francis is to hold the largest public event of his visit to Mexico when he celebrates Mass on an outdoor esplanade here on Sunday just miles (kilometers) from that canal.

"It's not just one daughter," said Guadalupe Reyes, Yanez's mother. "It's thousands."

Francis has already denounced corruption, violence and drug-trafficking in Mexico ahead of his Feb. 12-17 visit, and he is expected to address those same themes when he delivers his homily in Ecatepec, a sprawling, dangerous, disastrously mismanaged suburb of 1.6 million people.

The pontiff's decision to stop here shines an uncomfortable spotlight on the government's failure to solve entrenched social ills that plague many parts of Mexico—inequality, rampant gangland killings, extortion, disappearances of women, crooked cops and failed city services—even as President Enrique Pena Nieto has sought to make economic reform, modernization and bolstering the middle class hallmarks of his administration. One of Mexico's most shocking crimes in recent years was the 2014 mass disappearance of 43 students in the southern state of Guerrero.

"His Holiness will be in the country's violent, poor and miserable places," and government officials will not be able to gloss over those ills, said a recent editorial in Desde la Fe, a weekly publication by the Archdiocese of Mexico. "The trash remains below the red carpet, and Francis is not coming for the tidy and whitewashed trumpery of the event, nor the colorful confetti."

Known for his work ministering to slums as a cleric in his native Buenos Aires, the Argentine-born pontiff is no stranger to places like Ecatepec.

It's the most heavily populated municipality in the country and part of Mexico state, where Pena Nieto was governor from 2005 to 2011 before leaving office to run for president. However, Ecatepec is usually all but forgotten except at election time, when political bosses arrive with handouts to try to mobilize voters.

Stronger regional coordination can counter Africa extremism

THIES, Senegal (AP)—Violent extremist groups and their affiliates are collaborating more in northern Africa, and regional forces must be built up and supported with deeper intelligence sharing to counter the increasing threat of attacks, the head of the U.S. military's Special Operations Command Africa said Monday.

Brig. Gen. Donald Bolduc spoke on the sidelines of Flintlock, the U.S. military's annual counter-extremism training exercise based this year in Senegal. Monday marked the opening of training of African forces as ambassadors, generals and troops gathered on an airfield in Thies, Senegal, holding flags that represented the some 1,700 participants from about 30 countries across Africa, and other Western countries.

The training comes as the region battles a growing threat from al-Qaida-linked extremists and Nigeria's Islamic extremist group Boko Haram which has pledged support to the Islamic State group .

Violent extremist organizations have become more collaborative, sharing tactics and procedures, said Bolduc.

"They have traded ideas and concepts on how to message and present themselves in public, solidifying their ideology and what they stand for. And we have watched that collaboration manifest itself in becoming more effective in north Africa," he said.

Nations have also started to come together to look at how regional cooperation can support countering the threat of the extremists, he said, pointing to the multi-national force battling Boko Haram with troops from Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon.

He warned, however, that the military is not the only solution.

Intelligence sharing is vital, but so is working with civil administrations to connect from the ground up to deal with the threat, he said.

Gen. Amadou Kane, the chief of staff of Senegal's armed forces, said the threat of extremism affects all nations.

"We can't know where the threat will next come, so we must then reorganize ourselves," and make efforts to do that with neighboring countries, he said.

Displaced by fighting, Kurdish residents call for peace

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (AP)—Azize Calis is pleading for peace.

The 70-year-old Kurdish woman is among tens of thousands displaced by fighting raging between Turkish security forces and militants in the southeast after a peace process collapsed in the summer.

Calis and her family fled from their home about two months ago with only the clothes they were wearing from one district in the city of Diyarbakir to the relative safety of another. Besides fearing for her life, she was also faced with round-the-clock curfews and being left without food, electricity or water.

"They rained fire, calamity, wrath on top of us," Calis said in Kurdish from the shoddy rented house where the family of eight has sought refuge in Diyarbakir's low-income Baglar district. "We escaped to save our lives."

A two-and-a-half year peace process between Turkey's government and the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, broke down in July, reviving three decades of conflict that has cost more than 40,000 lives.

The PKK has been fighting government forces for self-rule for Kurds in the mainly Kurdish southeast since 1984. Turkish government officials say the Kurdish militants have launched the latest violence in urban districts after being emboldened by Syrian Kurdish forces' success against the Islamic State group in the northern Syrian city of Kobani.

The Calis family ran away from Diyarbakir's historic Sur district, an area famed for its ancient city walls—dotted with historic mosques and listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While Baglar is far from the gunfire and blasts that ring from Sur, the living conditions are spare. Apart from a TV set and a rug, the house has no furniture aside from the cushions they sit on and the mattresses they sleep on.

Calis longs to return home, blaming both Kurdish and Turkish leaders for her misery, and imploring them to seek peace.

"We are in a miserable state. If our (Kurdish) leader and those leading Turkey, if they had a little mercy, they would not bring about this wrath on us," Calis said. "We want peace, we want peace, we want peace!"

Fighting persists in urban areas in Turkey's southeast, including in the Sur district. Turkish security forces, backed by tanks, have embarked on large-scale operations to root out Kurdish militants and imposed round-the-clock curfews in several municipalities, displacing tens of thousands of people—mostly Kurds.

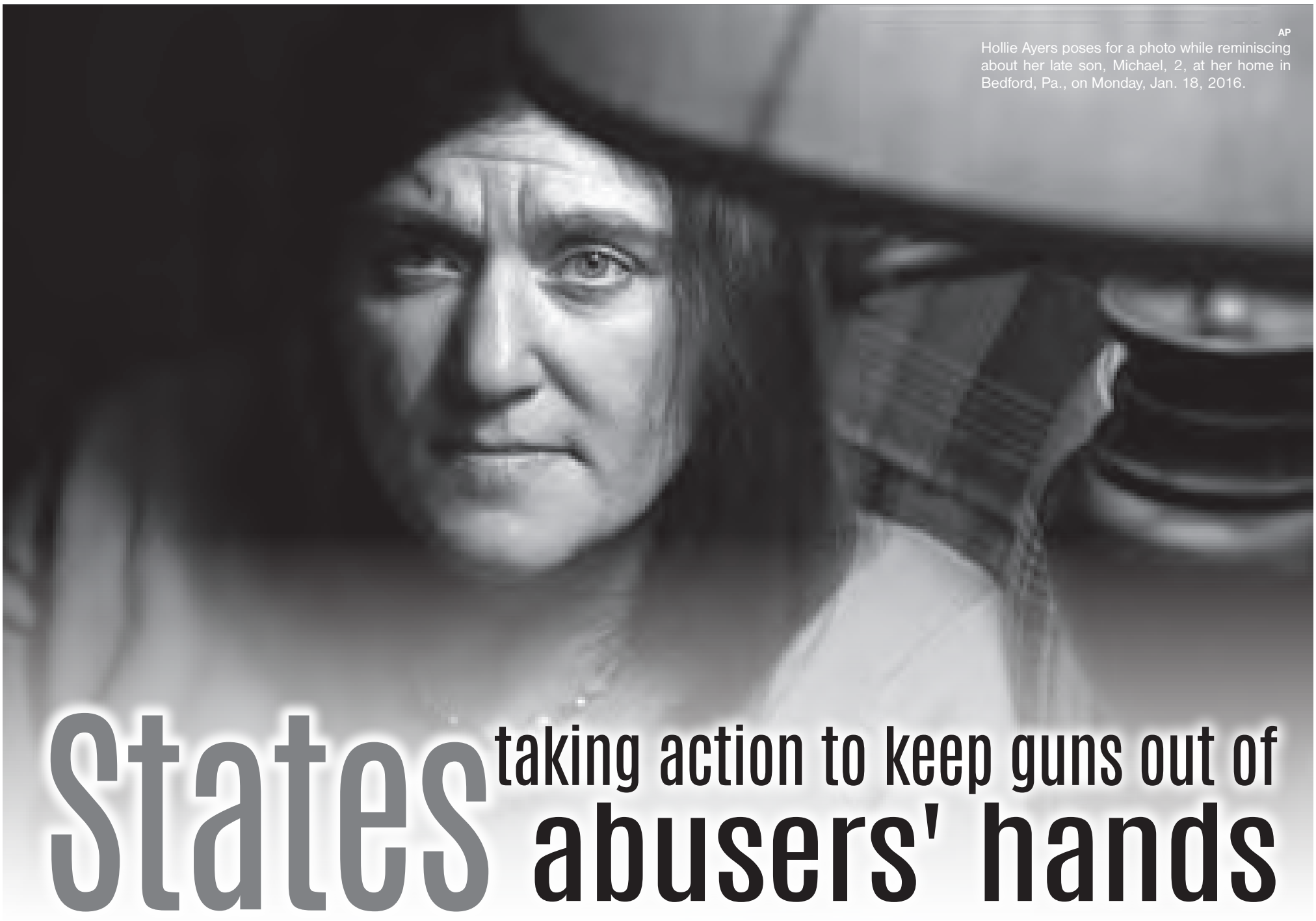
Kurdish militants have set up barricades, dug trenches and primed explosives to protect the areas they declare to be under Kurdish self-rule.

Several neighborhoods of Sur and the nearby town of Cizre have been under siege since December, while the blockade in the town of Silopi was lifted late last month after the government declared it to be cleared of PKK-linked militants.

The military says at least 175 militants have been killed in Sur and another 574 have died in Cizre since the start of the operations. The zones under curfew are off-limits to journalists and observers, leading to human rights concerns.

This month, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Raad al-Hussein called on Turkey to investigate the alleged shooting of a group of unarmed people in Cizre after video he described as "extremely shocking" was posted online.

Focus



AP
Hollie Ayers poses for a photo while reminiscing about her late son, Michael, 2, at her home in Bedford, Pa., on Monday, Jan. 18, 2016.

States taking action to keep guns out of abusers' hands

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—More than a dozen states have strengthened laws over the past two years to keep firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers, a rare area of consensus in the nation‘s highly polarized debate over guns.

Lawmakers and governors of both parties have supported bills stripping gun rights from those who have been convicted of domestic violence-related crimes or are subject to protective orders. The measures have been backed by victims‘ advocates, law enforcement groups and gun control supporters who see easy access to firearms as a major contributor to domestic violence killings.

Similar proposals are expected to be debated in several states this year.

“Domestic violence is definitely an area where there is the most agreement between the gun lobby and gun-violence prevention advocates,“ said Allison Anderman, staff attorney with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco.

The National Rifle Association has taken a cautious approach toward such bills, opposing the farthest-reaching measures but staying neutral or negotiating compromises on others. For example, the NRA has fought provisions that would require people to surrender their guns before they have a chance to contest allegations made in a request for an emergency protective order.

“There is no evidence that simply taking away people‘s guns without a fair hearing makes the victims any safer,“ NRA spokeswoman Catherine Mortensen said.

The push in the states is driven by stories of women and children killed or wounded by known abusers, and by statistics showing that hostile relationships often turn deadly when guns are present.

An average of 760 Americans were killed with guns annually by spouses, ex-spouses or dating partners between 2006 and 2014, according to an Associated Press analysis of FBI and Florida data. Florida‘s statistics are not included in the FBI‘s report, which covers all other states and District of Columbia, but were analyzed separately by AP.

The total is an undercount because not all law enforcement agencies report such information, and it doesn‘t include children and other bystanders who were killed. More than 80 percent of those killed were women.

“The system failed my son, and I am going to do whatever it takes to make sure it never happens to another child or another woman,“ said Hollie Ayers, 44, a Pennsylvania woman whose 2 1/2-year-old son, Michael, was shot and killed in front of her by her abusive ex-husband in 2013. “Michael‘s life to me was priceless. If you can at least reduce the amount of homicides, this is a no-brainer to me.“

Ayers, who was shot in the face and the leg, said she constantly thinks about her son, who loved tractors and puzzles. Her ex-husband killed himself after the rampage.

Ayers had warned that he had guns and had said that he, his ex-wife and the child “would be better off dead“ before she obtained a permanent protection-from-abuse order, court records show. But the judge did not order her ex-husband to surrender his weapons, even after he violated the protective order.

Hollie Ayers is pushing for a Pennsylvania law that would require people to turn over their guns when judges issue protection orders against them.

Kim Stolfer, president of the Pennsylvania group Firearms Owners Against Crime, said his organization isn‘t on board with the idea yet. He said such legislation could be exploited by vindictive ex-spouses who level false allegations of abuse.

“We need some balance, and it‘s rapidly going the wrong way,“ he said.

In announcing executive action on gun control last month, President Barack Obama said protecting domestic abuse victims is one of his goals. His changes include strengthening the federal background check system, which has denied gun sales 120,000 times since 1998 because of domestic violence convictions.

Federal law has long prohibited felons, those convicted of misdemeanor domestic abuse crimes and individuals subject to permanent protective orders from buying or owning guns. Critics say the federal law is too weak because it does not apply to dating relationships, does not ban guns during temporary protective orders and does not establish procedures for abusers to surrender firearms.

States have been passing their own laws to match or exceed the federal prohibitions, delighting gun control advocates.

“We‘ve passed them in blue states, red states and purple states,“ said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. “We believe they are absolutely lifesaving.“

Some of the strictest state laws create processes for seizing firearms from abusers and extend gun bans to stalkers, abusive dating partners and those who are subject to temporary protective orders.

Studies by public health researchers have generally concluded that such laws, when properly implemented, can reduce deaths.

Gun rights advocates say some of the laws are applied too broadly.

“It encompasses everybody who has a one-time blip in their life, and all of a sudden their gun rights are taken away forever,“ said Wes Dunbar, an Iowa lawyer who has represented defendants upset over losing their ability to hunt.

South Carolina and Wisconsin are two of the states dominated by Republicans and with a strong tradition of gun ownership that have taken steps to restrict abusers‘ access to guns.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker signed a law in 2014 requiring people subject to domestic abuse restraining orders to turn over their guns within 48 hours. The NRA stayed neutral after negotiating language that allows individuals to seek the return of their weapons once restraining orders are lifted.

Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina signed a measure in June that includes a life ban on gun ownership for the most serious domestic violence offenders.

“South Carolina is no longer thinking about the convenience of the abuser,“ Haley said when she signed the bill in June. “South Carolina is thinking about strengthening the survivor.“

Good Housekeeping

LIVING SMART:

Choosing bathroom tile that's trendy and timeless

By JAMES FIGY
ANGIE'S LIST

Using faux wood tile on bathroom and shower walls is a growing trend. MCT

Jumping headfirst into the latest bathroom tile trend runs the risk of falling out of vogue, leaving the bathroom looking dated.

Since tile lasts 20 to 30 years — longer than bathtub surrounds or vinyl flooring — homeowners don't need to update as often, says Carlos Martinez, first officer of C-Bek Tile & Stone Design in North Hollywood, California. So homeowners should consider a trend's staying power when planning a bathroom remodel.

Tile color trends

Despite the number of flashy colors available, the standards still reign supreme. Minimizing tile colors doesn't minimize options, says Kevin McDaniel, director of product design and development for The Tile Shop in Minneapolis.

"Grey, white and 'greige' colors continue to grow in popularity," he says. "Low-contrast palettes with minimum coloration are still the predominant trend."

Trendy porcelain tiles gain popularity

Porcelain tile catches the eye with its good looks and relatively low cost. Larry Bushner, owner of Masterpiece Tile & Grout in Arlington, Texas, has noticed more homeowners requesting porcelain tile.

"This can look like stone without the additional costs of installation, purchase price and maintenance," he says, adding porcelain tile costs slightly more than ceramic tile.

Porcelain faces no shortage of style either, Martinez says. Besides the stone look, manufacturers are creating contemporary and classic product lines in porcelain, which doesn't stain like other tile types, he says.

"They're getting so good at (manufacturing) porcelain," Martinez says. "That's why it's popping right now."

McDaniel says The Tile Shop has seen increased demand for porcelain, and the company will release a line of Travertine Ivory porcelain tile early next year. However, with stone's classic appeal and certain glazing techniques only possible with ceramic tile, those two won't disappear, he says.

Trendy glass tile becomes a staple

Glass tile has proved its staying power, becoming a timeless classic in its own rite, according to McDaniel. Now, designs that combine glass with other materials are gaining momentum, he says.

"Newer water-jet technology allows for unique shapes, sizing and combination of materials that was unthinkable a few years ago," he says.

Angie's List member A. Weiss of Skokie, Illinois, chose 3-by-9-inch blue glass tile for the top half of her bathroom walls to accent the main 12-by-24-inch porcelain tile.

Weiss researched a plethora of tile options online before beginning the modernizing master bathroom remodel, which features a large corner tub and shower with glass walls. She and her husband needed to replace moldy, flaking-beyond-help slate tile in the shower, installed before they bought the house.

"We have a transitional/modern style for the most part, so we wanted clean lines and a bit of a spa feel," Weiss says. "Having done a lot of research online, we decided on a glass and porcelain look."

Weiss visited showrooms and consulted with the in-house designer for her contractor, Neighborhood Remodelers in Park Ridge, Illinois. Not counting labor, the tile materials, including grout and caulk, cost $1,775.

Installing faux wood tile on shower walls has recently grown into a popular bathroom tile trend, according to McDaniel.

"The thought of having wood inside of a wet area is a completely novel idea, and homeowners and designers are widely embracing it," he says.

One trend McDaniel debunked is the death of multi-tile patterns. Patterns offer a classic, traditional look, he says, even if they don't fit some homeowners' modern tastes.

"As some homeowners embrace a more contemporary look, designs have become cleaner, with more emphasis placed on the use of a single material throughout one or more spaces," he said. "Accents, if used, tend to be limited to one dramatic focal point.

5 appliance-buying tips to know before you shop

By STACI GIORDULLO
ANGIE'S LIST

Who wouldn't want a bigger refrigerator, a quieter dishwasher or a new gas stove?

But before you indulge in some retail therapy, check out what appliance experts say you should consider when buying new appliances.

Ask about fees

When comparing prices, be sure to ask questions regarding delivery and installation fees.

"Many stores don't include the required hook-up parts with your purchase," says Rick Ritt, builder sales specialist with Snow Brothers Appliance in Cleveland.

Make a smart switch

Before you make a big purchase, do your research and find out what will go into installing the new appliance.

For example, if you want to switch from an electric range to a gas range, hire a licensed contractor to tackle the installation.

"It's not hard, but it requires labor and depends on how far away the gas line is and if the basement ceiling is finished," Ritt says.

Know the pros and cons

Before you splurge on the latest trend or the fanciest feature, make sure it really suits your needs.

French door refrigerators, in which the freezer is on the bottom, are gaining popularity.

"They comprise 75 percent of our total sales," says Mike Moretti, owner of Top Line Appliance Center in Westfield, New Jersey, adding that they're very user-friendly, but may not offer enough freezer storage for some consumers. Before you buy, make sure you're not putting style over functionality.

Get the right measurements

You don't want an installer to show up with a new appliance, only to find it doesn't fit. Make sure you measure correctly and have the right dimensions.

Doug Samuels, president of Young's Appliances in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, says homeowners often measure their old appliance instead of the space it will occupy.

"The only appliances that have a general standard dimension for replacement are 30-inch ranges, over-the-range microwaves and dishwashers," he says.

"A homeowner should check where (front-load washer) is going before even entertaining making the purchase," Moretti adds, noting that they're considerably larger than a top-load version. "But you'll get great capacity and wash results with a front load washer."

Check for user error

Before you get rid of an old appliance, ask yourself if it really needs to be replaced. Sometimes, the problem isn't the appliance, it's the user.

If you're considering a new dishwasher because the dishes come out clean, but with a coating, you could be the culprit.

"The chemicals in the detergents need to interact with food soils and if your dishes are rinsed before you do your load, the detergent tends to foam up and will leave a milky film and spots," Samuels says.

Staci Giordullo is a reporter at Angie's List, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Parsley-Pesto Salmon

1 cup chopped fresh parsley
1/4 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
Salt and black pepper
4 salmon steaks, about 3/4-inch thick (about 4 ounces each)

1. Heat oven to 400 F. In blender or in food processor, with knife blade attached, puree parsley, oil, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper until smooth.

2. Coat salmon steaks with parsley mixture. In oven-safe 10-inch skillet over high heat, cook salmon until lightly browned on both sides, about 2 minutes.

3. Place skillet in oven. Roast salmon until just opaque throughout, 8 to 10 minutes. Makes 4 main-dish servings.

* Each serving: About 334 calories, 23g protein, 2g carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 21g total fat (4g saturated), 67mg cholesterol, 366mg sodium.

ON THE SIDE: Watercress Salad: For each person, mix 2 teaspoons olive oil, a dash of vinegar or lemon juice, and salt and pepper to taste. Add 1/8 teaspoon finely chopped garlic if desired. Add 1 cup watercress mixed with 2 cups milder-tasting greens, like romaine or butter lettuce. Toss until evenly coated.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

(c) 2016 Hearst Communications, Inc. All rights reserved

Life & Style

Beyonce's Super Bowl show bringing both praise and criticism

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
In this Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016 file photo, Beyonce performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 50 football game in Santa Clara, Calif.

A day after the Super Bowl, people are still parsing over each frame from Beyonce's halftime performance, trying to glean the messages, both subtle and overt, that made for a stunning display of unapologetic blackness and political activism during one of the most-watched events of the year.

The halftime show—seen by an estimated 112 million people—is drawing praise from her fans and consternation from critics.

While Beyonce hasn't commented on the specifics of the show, and her rep declined comment, the imagery speaks for itself. Beyonce's dancers donned berets, sported Afros and wore all black, similar to the style of the Black Panther party, founded 50 years ago by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in the Bay area—the location of this year's Super Bowl. At one point during their routine, the dancers formed an "X" on the field, which some people are taking as a tribute to slain black activist Malcolm X.

In addition, Beyoncé and her dancers raised a fist to the sky, reminiscent of the black power salutes of the 1960-70s, made popular internationally by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who raised their fists to the sky after winning gold and bronze at the 1968 Summer Olympics.

Several people applauded her embracing the history of black activism and of her own identity. Her new song "Formation," which she sang during her performance, includes the lyrics "I like my baby hair, with baby hair and Afros. I like my negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils."

"I think that you're hard-pressed to find that demonstrative an example of performative blackness on stage, on such a high profile stage," said Damon Young, editor in chief of the website www.verysmartbrothas.com , on Monday. "Between the dancers coming out dressed as Black Panthers to the lyrics to the song, again ... I can't recall another time you saw that unambiguousness with a performance on a large scale."

Melina Abdullah, a Black Lives Matter activist and leader in California, said it's wonderful that artists like Beyonce "are willing to raise social consciousness and use their artistry to advance social justice."

But not everyone appreciated Beyoncé's performance. Republican Congressman Peter King of New York immediately condemned Beyoncé for her performance, saying on Facebook "her pro-Black Panther and anti-cop video 'Formation' and her Super Bowl appearance is just one more example of how acceptable it has become to be anti-police."

(While there were no direct references to police on the Super Bowl field, the video, released Saturday, features a young black child in a hoodie dancing in front of a line of police officers, and graffiti that reads "Stop Shooting Us.")

And all of this comes during heightened racial tensions across the country, particularly in regards to allegations of police brutality. Hollywood is grappling with issues of race as well, with Spike Lee, Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith planning to skip the Academy Awards after no actors of color received Oscar nominations for a second year in a row.

Lakeyta Bonnette, a Georgia State University political science professor, said more and more celebrities like Beyonce are moving toward public activism. In 2014, basketball superstar LeBron James and other NBA players wore "I can't breathe" T-shirts to their basketball games: "I can't breathe" were the last words of Eric Garner, a black man who died after a physical altercation with police in New York City.

But some people have complained that Beyonce injected politics into a sports event. On Monday's Fox & Friends, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani slammed her tributes to black activism during the halftime show when performers are "talking to Middle America."

"I thought it was really outrageous that she used it as a platform to attack police officers who are the people who protect her and protect us, and keep us alive," said Giuliani, who said he would have preferred "decent wholesome entertainment."

To be fair, it wasn't just Beyoncé that the 71-year old Giuliani didn't like. He called the whole halftime show "ridiculous."

"I don't know what the heck it was. A bunch of people bouncing around and all strange things. It was terrible," he said. "Actually don't even know why we have this. I mean, this is football."

'Kung Fu Panda 3' tops Super Bowl weekend at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—The Coen brothers' "Hail, Caesar!" and the Jane Austen-monster mashup "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" followed distantly behind "Kung Fu Panda 3," which remained on top of the box office over Super Bowl weekend.

DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda" sequel earned an estimated $21 million in its second weekend of release, according to studio estimates Sunday. Joel and Ethan Coen's '50s Hollywood satire "Hail, Caesar!" opened in second place with an estimated $11.4 million in North American theaters for Universal Pictures.

The two other major new releases struggled.

The Nicholas Sparks' romance "The Choice" debuted with $6.1 million for Lionsgate. Despite expectations of a No. 2 opening, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," bankrolled by Cross Creek Picture and released by Sony's Screen Gems, eked out a meager $5.2 million.

Though the majority of weekend grosses are made on Fridays and Saturdays, Hollywood generally seeks to avoid competing with the football broadcast and instead sticks largely to counterprogramming. The best Super Bowl weekend remains the 2008 concert film "Hannah Montana and Miley Cyrus" ($31.1 million) followed by an earlier Sparks adaption, 2010's "Dear John" ($30.5 million).

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, called Super Bowl weekend a trade-off for studios that sacrifice a day of moviegoing for the promotional benefit of the game's mass audience. A number of movie previews were set to play during the broadcast.

"It's one of those weekends that Hollywood braces for but they know how to course correct before it happens," Dergarabedian said.

Playing in 2,232 theaters, "Hail, Caesar!" is one of the Coen brothers' more wide-opening movies, but it earned a dismal C-minus CinemaScore from audiences. Starring Josh Brolin as a studio fixer in the classic Hollywood era and featuring George Clooney and Channing Tatum as '50s stars, "Hail, Caesar!" is the Coens' most broad comedy since their 2008 "Burn After Reading." That film opened with $19.1 million.

Alejandro Inarritu's Oscar-nominated "The Revenant" continues to roll. Its global total is up to $325 million, and "The Revenant" led overseas business with $24 million internationally over the weekend. On Saturday, Inarritu also won best director from the Directors Guild Awards.

In its eight week of release, Walt Disney Co.'s "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" celebrated a pair of milestones over the weekend. It surpassed $900 million at the North American box office and crossed $2 billion globally.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $21 million ($23 million international).
2. "Hail, Caesar!" $11.4 million.
3. "The Revenant," $7.1 million ($24 million international).
4. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $6.9 million ($7 million international).
5. "The Choice," $6.1 million ($750,000 international).
6. "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," $5.2 million.
7. "The Finest Hours," $4.7 million ($2.8 million international).
8. "Ride Along 2," $4.5 million ($2.9 million international).
9. "The Boy," $4.1 million ($2.7 million international).
10. "Dirty Grandpa," $4.1 million ($4.5 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "The Revenant," $24 million.
2. "Kung Fu Panda 3," $23 million.
3. "A Violent Prosecutor," $19.5 million.
4. "Alvin And The Chipmunks: The Road Chip," $12.8 million.
5. "The Hateful Eight," $8.5 million.
6. "Les Tuche 2," $8.5 million.
7. "The 5th Wave," $7.7 million.
8. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," $7 million.
9. "Goosebumps," $6.5 million.
10. "Daddy's Home," $5.4 million.

Gwyneth Paltrow tearfully testifies against accused stalker

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gwyneth Paltrow testified Monday in the trial of a man accused of stalking her, saying he wrote upsetting letters discussing her death and his intention to marry her and also sent her pornography and unsolicited gifts.

Dante Soiu is accused of stalking the Oscar-winning actress for 17 years, but the case focuses on the most recent batch of 66 messages he's sent her between 2009 and 2015.

Several of those messages referenced Paltrow's death, Soiu's desire to marry her and unsolicited gifts, including clothes, a pair of earrings and a Weight Watchers cookbook.

The actress broke down briefly during her roughly two-and-a-half hours on the stand after a prosecutor asked Paltrow about whether she feared for her children's safety as a result of Soiu's missives.

"Yes," Paltrow responded tearfully. She quickly regained her composure and explained why she was so rattled by Soiu.

AP

In this Jan. 26, 2016, file photo, actress Gwyneth Paltrow poses for photographers before Chanel's Spring-Summer 2016 Haute Couture fashion collection in Paris.

"I'm scared because the communications completely defy logic," she said. "I've been dealing with his for 17 years with the communications from this man."

Soiu's attorney said he has simply written letters to Paltrow, and that recent letters haven't included pornography. Attorney Lynda Westlund said Soiu is a Christian man who is just trying to minister to the actress.

Paltrow testified about letters and packages she received from Soiu dating to 1999, including several that contained pornography, sex toys and statements that he wanted to cleanse her of sin.

"This is a case that has gone on for Ms. Paltrow for 17 years," Deputy District Attorney Wendy Segall said during opening statements. "Her sense of security has been shattered by this man."

Paltrow, 43, remained mostly composed in the witness stand, showing concern on her face. Dressed in a white turtleneck and black slacks, she at one point identified Soiu, 66, who was wearing a blue shirt and gray sweater.

Soiu was found not guilty by reason of insanity in 2000 in a previous trial involving messages he sent to Paltrow, which included pornography and sex toys. He was sent to a mental institution for several years, but re-arrested last year after sending the actress new correspondence.

Flavor Flav pleads no contest to DUI charge in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The entertainer Flavor Flav pleaded no contest Monday to misdemeanor driving under the influence in Las Vegas, marking the second plea in two weeks involving similar charges in Nevada.

AP

This May 21, 2015 booking photo provided by the Clark County Detention Center shows William Drayton Jr. aka Flavor Flav after his arrest in Las Vegas.

The 56-year-old rapper and reality television star acknowledged that he had marijuana residue in his system when police stopped his vehicle last May. Flavor Flav, whose real name is William Jonathan Drayton Jr., lives in Las Vegas.

He also pleaded no contest Jan. 25 in suburban Henderson to having marijuana metabolite in his system when he was found asleep in the front seat of a vehicle on the side of a street in August, defense attorney Dayvid Figler said.

Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Suzan Baucum fined Drayton $685—the same amount he had been fined in Henderson—and ordered him to attend a victim impact panel and drunken driving school to satisfy plea requirements in both cases.

The Las Vegas case stemmed from the Nevada Highway Patrol stopping him for speeding May 21 not far from McCarran International Airport. Misdemeanor speeding and open container charges were dropped Monday as part of the plea.

Another defense attorney, Kristina Wildeveld, said the rapper is trying to adjust to life without a driver's license.

Michael Douglas among film stars honored by AARP

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Michael Douglas was initially confused when he was told that he was

The star of "Fatal Attraction" and many other films told the crowd being honored with a career achievement honor by the AARP Movies for Grownups Awards.at Monday's glitzy ceremony that his assistant mistakenly told him he was receiving an award for his work in adult films.

"I remember all my films," joked Douglas after receiving a standing ovation. "I don't remember any adult films."

The newspaper drama "Spotlight" was selected as best picture at the 15th annual ceremony presented by the advocacy group AARP to stars over the age of 50 and the films that speak to that demographic.

"I think when we set out to make this movie, we weren't thinking about whether it was for kids or for grownups," said "Spotlight" filmmaker Tom McCarthy. "Collectively, we understood that it was a story we had to tell. It was that important. We hoped it would reach everybody who needed to hear it."

Mark Rylance was chosen as best supporting actor for "Bridge of Spies," while Bryan Cranston won the best actor trophy for "Trumbo."

"I'm delighted to be here tonight—and not just because my AARP gives me a deep discount on the parking," said Cranston.

AP

Michael Douglas accepts the Career Achievement Award at the 15th Annual Movies for Grownups Awards at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Wedding cast of characters reflects turbulent history

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Chad," is being married in June to "Jenny," a girl his sister "Madison" introduced him to. Madison feels she should be a bridesmaid in their wedding because she introduced them. Madison had sex with Jenny's boyfriend "Axel" before she met Chad, got pregnant and had Axel's baby.

Jenny feels Madison screwed up her life and, even though she's about to marry my son, she doesn't want to reward Madison by asking her to be in the wedding. My daughter says if she's not in the wedding she won't attend, and won't allow her son (by Axel) to be the ring bearer, either.

I feel Chad and his fiancee should be able to have their wedding the way they want. I do not want to miss my only son's wedding because my daughter feels slighted. What should I do and say?

COMPLICATED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR COMPLICATED: While it's unfortunate that Jenny can't let bygones be bygones in the interest of future family harmony, you must not allow your daughter to dictate the plans for her brother's wedding. When the big day arrives, you should definitely attend and celebrate with Chad and Jenny. If Madison chooses not to attend as a guest, that's her decision, and you should not allow her to make it your problem.

DEAR ABBY: My mother married a man, "George," a few years ago. They met online, and he makes her happier than I've ever seen her. Our entire family adores George and is supportive of their marriage.

My husband and I had our first child, "Ella," this year. This has made Mom's dreams of becoming a grandma come true.

When I see George hold, play with, or just be in the same room with my daughter, I can't help but keep a really close eye on how he acts with her. He hasn't said or done anything for me not to trust him, but it makes me really uneasy, and I want to restrict his interaction with her.

It is my responsibility to protect my baby girl, and I'm extra-cautious because I was molested as a young girl. I can't discuss this with Mom because she doesn't know about what happened to me, and I know this would cause a huge fight between us.

How can I limit George's contact with Ella while still giving Mom the time she wants with her? Is this intuition or paranoia?

CAUTIOUS IN KANSAS

DEAR CAUTIOUS: Why does your mother not know what happened to you as a child? Did you stay silent because you were afraid you wouldn't be believed? Because you wanted to protect her? Because your abuser was your father? You should have told her. It was her job to protect YOU.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

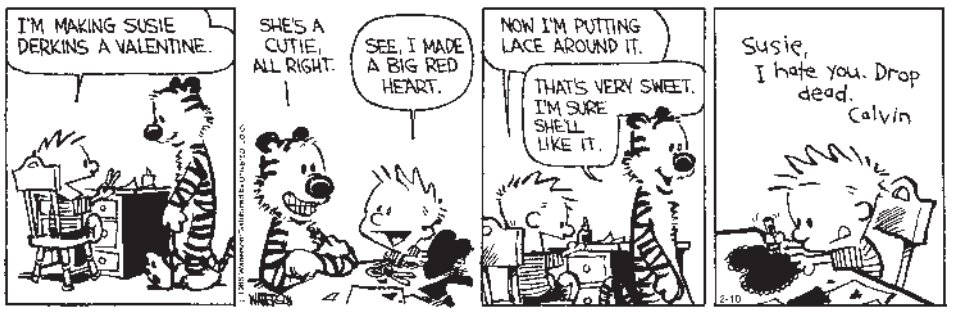
I think the time has come for you to let her know what happened and how it has affected you. While I can appreciate your reason for not trusting men, not all men are molesters. If you would feel better keeping a close eye on your daughter's interactions with males until she's old enough to know what kind of touches are appropriate and which ones are not, that's your privilege. And if it leads to an argument with your mother, you will just have to stand by your decision.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

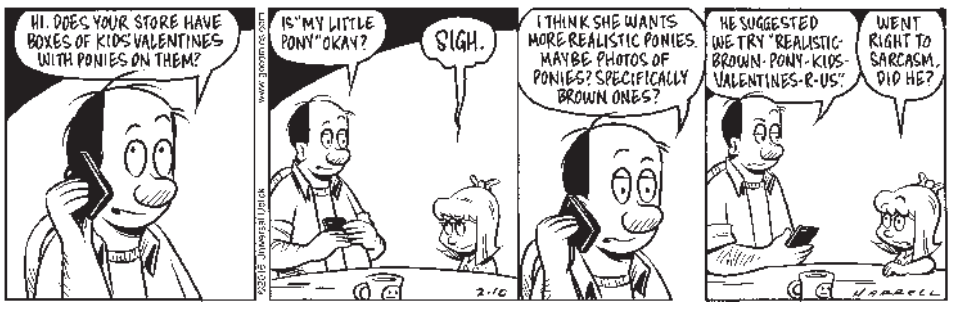

I'M MAKING SUSIE DERKINS A VALENTINE.
SHE'S A CUTIE, ALL RIGHT.
SEE, I MADE A BIG RED HEART.
NOW I'M PUTTING LACE AROUND IT.
THAT'S VERY SWEET. I'M SURE SHE'LL LIKE IT.
Susie, I hate you. Drop dead. Calvin
2-10

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

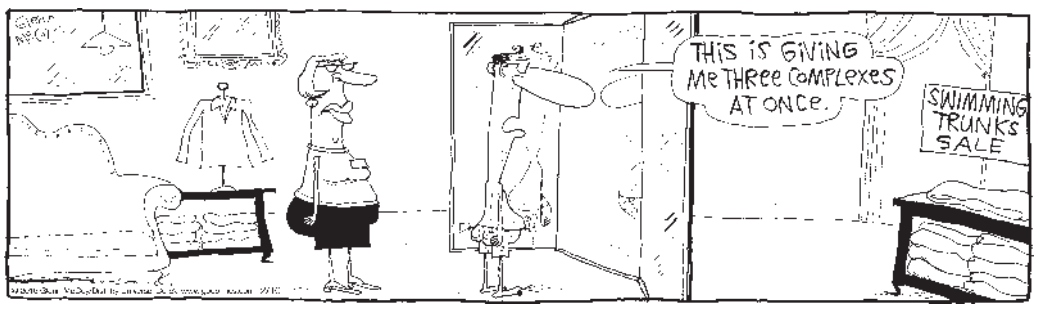
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI. DOES YOUR STORE HAVE BOXES OF KIDS VALENTINES WITH PONIES ON THEM?
IS "MY LITTLE PONY" OKAY?
SIGH.
I THINK SHE WANTS MORE REALISTIC PONIES. MAYBE PHOTOS OF PONIES? SPECIFICALLY BROWN ONES?
HE SUGGESTED WE TRY "REALISTIC-BROWN-PONY-KIDS-VALENTINES-R-US."
WENT RIGHT TO SARCASM, DID HE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

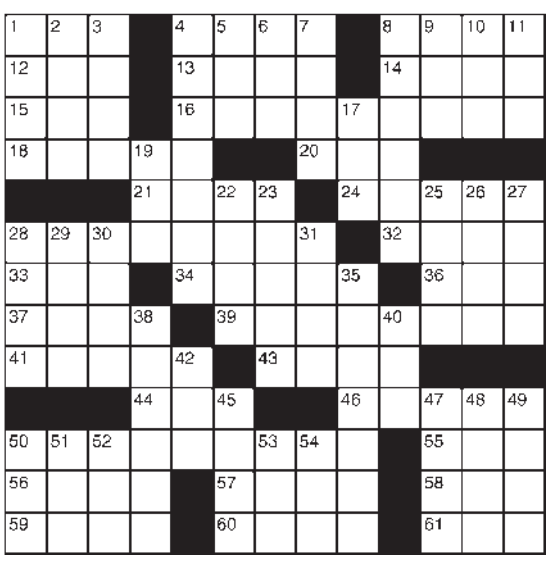
ACROSS
1 Clear the deck?
4 Some Wharton grads
8 Man-handles
12 Grenada gold
13 Nevada city
14 Spoken
15 Buck-eyes' sch.
16 Journal salutation
18 Former Yankees manager Joe
20 Pitch
21 Suffix with song or gab
24 Bust
28 Grim times
32 Turner or Fey
33 Actress Longoria
34 Punjabi believers
36 Fixed
37 McEnroe's rival
39 Chicago pizza style
41 Perspire
43 Ganges wrap
44 Cattle call
46 Mirror's offering
50 Oversimplifies, to a fault
55 — -la-la
56 Sandwich treat
57 Party pooper
58 "Shoo!"
59 Airline to Tel Aviv
60 Hot
61 "Nova" airer

DOWN
1 Academic
2 Guesser's words
3 Serve tea
4 Classic Gary Cooper role
5 Spell-off
6 Literary olio
7 Separate
8 Christie sleuth Hercule
9 Coach Parseghian
10 Series of battles
11 Devious
17 Apply cream
19 "Bobby" subj.
22 Uttered
23 Moppets
25 Spanish ayes
26 Till bills
27 Calc. or trig
28 Society newbies
29 Acknowledge
30 Exceptional
31 The Mets' old home
35 Full of bounce
38 Frolic
40 Badly lit
42 Lean- — (sheds)
45 Probability
47 Perched on
48 Food on a ranch
49 Takes courses?
50 Anonymous Jane
51 Internet address
52 — culpa
53 Raw rock
54 Old letter sealer

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	A	M	P		P	E	R	U		F	F	R
C	M	A	R		A	R	E	S		O	R	A
H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	E		R	I	S
			L	E	S	S		D	U	T	C	H
E	L	C	I	D			E	C	H	U		
G	U	A	M		S	A	V	A	N	N	A	H
G	A	R		M	I	S	E	R		A	W	E
S	U	B	T	O	T	A	L		P	T	A	S
		C	U	T	S			P	R	E	Y	S
F	U	N	G	I		S	U	E	Y			
I	N	A		V	A	C	C	I	N	A	T	E
H	I	I		E	T	A	L		N	A	V	Y
E	I	E		S	A	H	A		E	A	S	E

Yesterday's answer 2-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chloe Grace Moretz, 19; Emma Roberts, 25; Elizabeth Banks, 42; Laura Dern, 49.

Happy Birthday: Size up situations and do whatever is necessary to make it possible to achieve your goals. Opportunities will be plentiful, but if you don't take advantage of what comes your way, they will be fruitless. Travel, learning and planning a better future will help you stabilize your life and give you something to look forward to. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 24, 32, 36, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Discussions will backfire and could cause unrest and uncertainty. Put greater emphasis on gathering information and sorting through your thoughts and plans for the future. Now is not the time to share your plans. Learn from past mistakes. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will land on your feet, so don't be afraid to take a leap of faith. An opportunity will be too good to walk away from. Be open to ideas and make plans for romance. A subtle physical change will draw favorable attention. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't be too willing to accommodate others. You'll end up learning a lesson that will be costly emotionally as well as financially. Focus on stabilizing your life, not making it more complex and uncertain. Make self-improvement your goal. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A positive attitude will help everything fall into place, but mental concentration is what will take you to the top. A change to your residence will motivate you to exercise your creativity. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change of plans or doing things differently will help you realize what you want to do next. Don't follow the crowd when it comes to free time and relaxation. Do what suits you instead of trying to please everyone else. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put a little pleasure back into your life. Sign up for something enjoyable or plan to dine out with someone you love. A relationship will benefit if you openly discuss your personal plans. A young person could spark an idea that will change your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Listen to others, but don't give in to unreasonable demands. It's up to you to look out for your interests and bring about the changes that will benefit you. Self-improvement and your general well-being should take top priority. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let an iffy situation turn into a massive argument. Try to get involved in activities or organizations working toward a cause you believe in. Your innovative input will buy you respect and recognition. Follow your heart. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If you brag or make promises, you had better be able to live up to the expectations you set. If you aren't honest, someone will call your bluff and make you look bad. Stick close to home and take care of personal interests. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Success is within your reach. Love and romance will contribute to personal gains. Do what you feel is best for you, and if you give those around you the same freedom, you will enjoy the rewards that come your way. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An important relationship will be challenged. Look at the situation realistically and you will come up with a solution that can ease tension. Don't lose sight of your goals, but be willing to compromise to keep the peace. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotions will surface and ultimatums will be issued. Work within the parameters you have been given, and you will prove that you are capable when it comes to figuring out the best way to move forward. Romance will lead to an unusual experience. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, playful and intuitive. You are passionate and giving.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	5	7						
8			2			7		
4		3		7		1	2	
	2			9				
		5	7		6	4		
				4			8	
		8		1		5		2
	1				4			9
9						3	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	6	2	7	4	5	8	3
5	2	7	3	8	1	6	9	4
8	3	4	5	9	6	7	1	2
7	9	2	6	1	3	8	4	5
3	8	1	4	5	9	2	6	7
6	4	5	7	2	8	9	3	1
1	5	9	8	4	2	3	7	6
4	7	3	9	6	5	1	2	8
2	6	8	1	3	7	4	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/9

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

GLOBETROTTER'S GLOSSARY **Solution: 4 letters**

C	E	F	G	H	G	S	I	R	A	F	A	S	E	R
O	O	S	A	N	O	C	R	U	I	S	E	S	A	E
U	H	S	P	R	I	T	R	E	M	A	F	K	X	R
N	L	C	M	I	A	L	E	K	L	A	W	C	S	A
T	I	E	A	O	A	W	I	L	E	R	U	A	P	F
R	F	S	R	O	P	R	A	A	S	R	C	N	U	Y
I	E	C	O	U	C	O	T	Y	S	I	L	S	O	A
E	S	A	A	P	T	R	L	I	L	V	O	J	R	W
S	T	P	D	R	O	R	O	I	Y	A	T	O	G	S
E	Y	E	A	P	A	N	A	T	T	L	H	U	N	E
C	L	V	S	L	S	G	C	P	O	A	I	R	I	H
A	E	S	U	R	O	V	E	H	E	M	N	N	G	C
L	A	G	U	I	D	E	S	N	O	D	G	E	D	A
P	E	R	A	L	U	L	L	E	©	I	T	Y	O	E
R	E	S	O	R	T	S	I	D	L	Y	G	O	L	B

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/10

Agency, Aimlessly, Arrival, Beaches, Blog, Cellular, City, Clothing, Cosmopolitan, Countries, Cruises, Departure, Escape, Excursions, Fame, Faraway, Groups, Guides, Hotels, Idly, Journey, Lifestyle, Lodging, Motorcoach, Passport, Places, Poncho, Regularly, Resorts, Road, Rove, Safaris, Sailing, Snacks, Traipse, Travel, Walk, Wayfarer

Yesterday's Answer: Begin

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

Backhoe for Rent
For inquiries, please call 285-0478
• Security Services • Heavy Equipment Rental
• General Help Supply Services • Auto & Heavy Equipment Repair Shop

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

www.saipantribune.com

MTL COMMERCIAL TRADING, INC.
Secretaries & Administrative Assistant
- Knowledge of Administrative & Clerical procedures & systems, Intuit Quickbooks Software.
- Knowledge of circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment & computer hardware & software, including applications & programming.
- Knowledge of installation & configuration of computer hardware and its operating system.

Apply in person and bring resume.
No phone call please.
P.O. Box 501921
Tel. 233-9531 • Fax: 233-9532

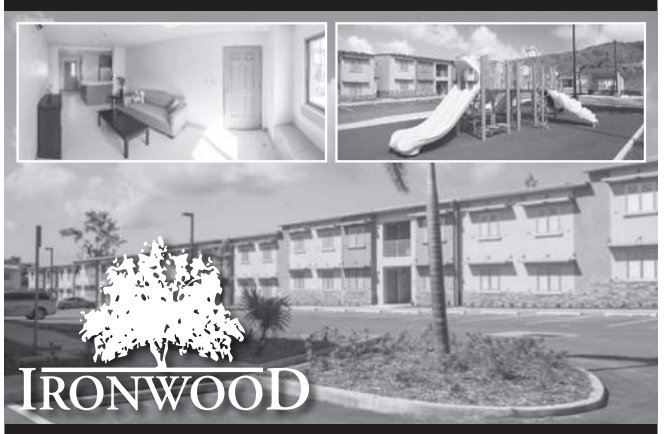
CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than February 19, 2016.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED



NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan. Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.

NOW LEASING
Starting @ $599/mo.

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY - FRIDAY • 9AM - 4PM
For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

(8) COOK
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Ability to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than February 10, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune
235-6397

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PROBATION OFFICER I

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Probation Officer in the Office of Adult Probation on Saipan which involves investigating, monitoring and/or supervising various levels and types of offenders' court ordered probation. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs all assigned duties relating to probationers' cases scheduled for court hearings;
- Investigates thoroughly offenders' personal history, background and environment;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the offenders' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Conducts interviews with probationers according to approved techniques in order to determine and clarify probationers' problems, and consulting with the supervisor as necessary, suggests constructive methods for dealing with such problems;
- Contacts public and private community agencies to secure their aid in solving probationers' problems. Maintains a continuing and ongoing relationship with the agencies as necessary;
- Documents facts and testifies in Court with respect to the Probationers' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while under supervision;
- Appears in Court for the purpose of providing testimony on Probation cases;
- Enforces Court Orders involving Probation cases;
- Attends public relations activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions; and
- Performs other law enforcement and public safety related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university. Have three (3) years experience in legal, law enforcement and/or court work. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: High five

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Find today's solution in classified section

Will Osweiler step in as Peyton steps out in Denver?

AP
Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) passes next to quarterbacks coach Greg Knapp, left, and quarterback Brock Osweiler (17) during an NFL football practice in Stanford, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—One of the biggest winners from the Super Bowl didn't even take a snap.

Brock Osweiler is a free agent the Broncos probably can't afford to lose if Peyton Manning retires. And judging by how much the five-time NFL MVP's game has deteriorated through age and injury, a decision to do anything but leave pro football as a champion would be foolhardy.

Denver, of course, is well aware of the upcoming challenges behind center. Broncos boss John Elway probably already knows what Manning will do, and he might even be advising Manning to hang it up just the way he did in 1999 after a Super Bowl win.

"I think he is probably just soaking it in," Elway said after the 24-10 victory against Carolina on Sunday in which Manning struggled mightily, but still got a second ring. "I remember when I won it, it is always the time to just sit there. There is so much hard work and it is such a long season that to be able to win the world championship and exhale and say, 'We are world champs' is a great feeling. I am sure he is enjoying it now."

All of the Broncos are enjoying it, of course. As coach Gary Kubiak said Monday morning, he wants to hold onto the championship feeling for a while before looking ahead.

But look ahead Denver must.

And while Super Bowl MVP linebacker Von Miller will become a free agent, that situation is more easily solvable for the Broncos. If they can't reach a long-term deal with Miller, who likely will seek to become the highest-paid defensive player in the league, they can franchise tag him. And they will.

But replacing Peyton? That one is much tougher.

Consider first Osweiler's situation.

Until this season, when Manning had to be benched and then was sidelined for nearly two months by a foot injury, Osweiler pretty much was an unknown. He'd impressed Elway, Kubiak and even the previous coaching staff under John Fox with his work habits, mastery of the schemes, and with some performances in the preseason.

Then Osweiler stepped in and Denver went 5-2 in his starts. Of course, Manning had to rescue the Broncos in the season finale, reclaiming the starting position for the post-season - although it was truly the defense that was carrying the team toward the Lombardi Trophy it emphatically snatched up Sunday.

With Manning out of the picture, Denver's dilemma is how much Osweiler is worth to the champions. He certainly will get attention from quarterback-starved teams such as Houston, Philadelphia, Cleveland and the Rams.

He's more valuable to the Broncos because he knows their system, has been through a Super Bowl run with them, and, no small thing, was under Manning's wing for four years. But is Osweiler worth the megabucks and long-term deal he could get from someone else?

In other words, is he worth superstar QB money?

Kubiak repeatedly said the Broncos wouldn't be on top without Osweiler's contributions, and he is correct. During Super Bowl week, he basically broke down Osweiler's value to Denver.

"Obviously a big, talented young man, can move around very well," Kubiak said. "Really a one-year player in college, but growing as a pro. The biggest thing I'd say for Brock is that nowadays in the National Football League when guys are drafted high, they don't get the luxury Brock has had. Brock has had a chance to grow up under a Hall of Famer and be coached extremely well, and has a chance to come up, I don't want to say the right way but the way a lot of guys were able to come up through the years many years ago.

"I think he's benefited from that, being around Peyton on a daily basis, as a worker, in the meetings, as a pro, so I think he's benefited from that."

Should Osweiler depart—Denver is highly unlikely to use the franchise tag on him (it was $18.5 million this season)—the only quarterback on the roster with Manning's retirement would be Trevor Siemian, a total unknown.

Elway won't be leaving his team in limbo at the position he played, of course. There are veterans he could bring in, some as stop gaps (Sam Bradford, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Nick Foles, Chase Daniel, Brian Hoyer could be in that mix), others with potential to build around (Robert Griffin III, Colin Kaepernick, Mike Glennon).

Or Elway could suit up himself—just kidding.

Given his track record in charge of the Broncos, folks in Denver need not worry. Elway will get it right.

Miller awaits offseason filled with fun, financial reward

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—On top of his game and now the world, Von Miller's docket is quickly filling up.

A parade. Lots of parties. A princely payday.

"I was just talking to Coach Kubiak, I was asking if you could make the plane do backflips on the way home," Miller said Monday after accepting the Super Bowl MVP trophy from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"It's definitely going to be a magical week for us. I am looking forward to spending time with my teammates going on tour."

It should be a magical offseason for Miller, who led Denver's dominating defense to a 24-10 clobbering of Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers.

Thanks to Miller, GM John Elway earned a third Lombardi Trophy for team owner Pat Bowlen to go with the two he won as his quarterback in the 1990s. Bowlen is battling Alzheimer's and didn't make the trip to Super Bowl 50.

"We'll take that trophy over to Pat this week and let him cherish it," Elway said.

Denver's throwing a parade for the champs on Tuesday, and Miller should be leading the way.

Then the players will take their final physicals and head into an offseason that includes trip to the White House where receiver Demaryius Thomas gets to personally thank the president for commuting his mother's prison sentence.

Everyone's expecting a send-off for Peyton Manning, and Miller's Super Bowl costars Danny Trevathan and Malik Jackson are sure to draw high interest in free agency.

Miller is also set to become an unrestricted free agent, but Elway will use the franchise tag on him if he has to, guaranteeing Miller close to $15 million next season.

In both sides' sights, however, are the $100 million-plus megadeals of J.J. Watt and Justin Houston that will serve as benchmarks for negotiations on a long-term contract for Miller.

Miller, who overcame a drug suspension and torn knee ligament in 2013, was the very first draft pick by Elway, who calls him the best player on the planet.

"He wins the football game for us," Elway said in the jubilant locker room Sunday night.

There's no way, he'll get away from Denver, either.

"No. I don't think so," Elway said. "You never know, but we don't want him to (leave). We want Von to stay in Denver and we're going to do everything we can to work it out."

Miller's mind isn't on money just yet. It's the nonfinancial fruits of success that he's soaking all in.

"The Super Bowl MVP is special, but the Super Bowl ring is something that I will keep with me for the rest of my life. I'll be able to be with my brothers for eternity," Miller said. "I'll be able to be with those guys for 100 years from now and that's truly beautiful."

As for contract negotiations, Miller said he's sure "it's going to be a peaceful thing. I am not really worried about it."

SIDEBAR

Agent confirms Seahawks star Lynch's plans to retire

SEATTLE (AP)—When Marshawn Lynch was brought to Seattle early in the 2010 season, he was acquired because the Seahawks desperately needed a running back.

What he ended up providing was an attitude and style that became the foundation for bringing the first Super Bowl title to the Pacific Northwest.

And for that, Lynch will forever hold a special place with the Seahawks. He may have been more of a headache off the field than anyone let on during his time in Seattle, but he'll ultimately be lauded as the running back that got the Seahawks to a place they had never been before.

Without saying a word—big surprise—Lynch drew a lot of attention during the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl on Sunday night with a single post on social media. Just a picture, green cleats hanging from a power or telephone line, and a peace sign emoji. It was his way of saying goodbye from football, a decision that his agent Doug Hendrickson confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday saying Lynch intends to retire.

The mercurial running back who enjoyed avoiding media attention away from the field as much as he thrived under the spotlight with the ball in his hands is stepping away just before his 30th birthday.

"Since I've been here he's been the heart and soul, the engine of our offense. A vocal leader. A great influence and one of the best teammates I've ever had," Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said last month of Lynch. "I can't say enough about him."

His final season was an injury-filled disappointment. There were no "Beast Mode" runs in his final season that will forever be in his highlight loop or the image of Lynch leaping into the end zone backward as he did to cap a few great runs in his career. He was a spectator as much as anything, playing in just seven regular season games and one playoff game as injuries were finally a factor in his ability to play.

But as much credit as coach Pete Carroll and general manager John Schneider deserve for what Seattle has become as a perennial power in the NFC, Lynch deserves his share for the demeanor he provided the Seahawks. The moment Lynch arrived, Seattle transformed from being finesse to power. He became the face of the franchise without mounting a campaign to do so. The violence and power with which he ran was Lynch's platform.

Nets nip Nuggets on Johnson 3-pointer at buzzer

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Johnson has been known as a clutch player during his tenure with the Brooklyn Nets and he came through again Monday night.

Johnson's 3-pointer at the buzzer lifted the Nets to a 105-104 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

"The play wasn't designed for me because we were only down two," Johnson said. "It was designed to try to get Brook (Lopez) the ball in the paint and get a layup or easy deuce and go into overtime.

"Obviously when I came up to the top of the key, I was wide open. Markel saw me and I knew I had one-point-something (on the clock), so I had enough to at least take a dribble. I was able to take a dribble and I don't even know how it went in."

Thaddeus Young scored 20 points and Markel Brown added a career-high 19 and Johnson finished with 12 points and eight assists for Brooklyn.

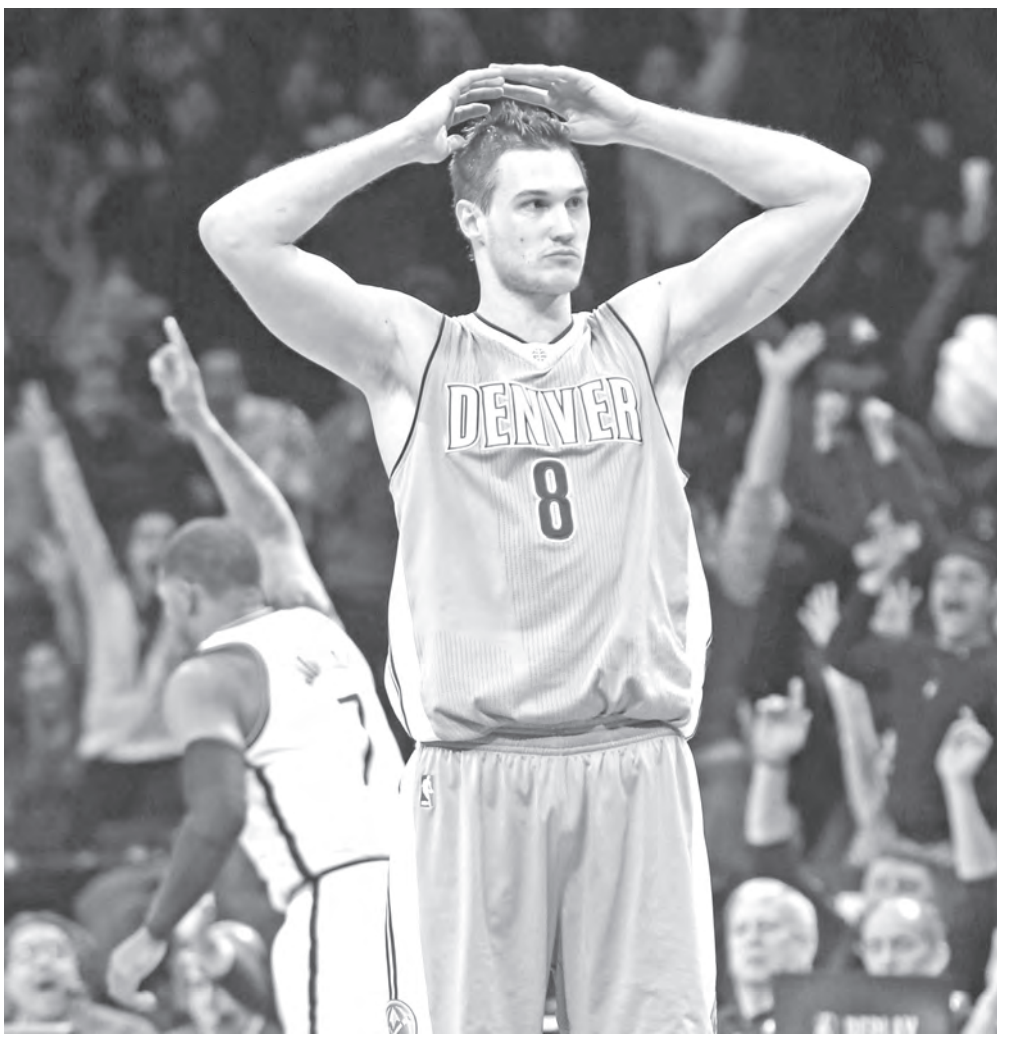
"Joe actually made a good call during the timeout when I drew the play up," Nets coach Tony Brown said. "He made sure the guys had started early before the ball was handed to one of our players, so the action started early. So give him credit, he made a hell of a shot. A one-legged bank shot from (3-point range) is sure to be on some highlight reels tonight."

Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points and Kenneth Faried had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Denver won a jump ball between Faried and the Nets' Lopez with 23 seconds remaining. After Denver called a timeout, Emmanuel Mudiay was fouled by Shane Larkin on a drive to the basket with 4.7 seconds remaining.

Faried then took the inbound pass and hit a runner with 1.3 seconds remaining to give the Nuggets a 104-102 lead.

"I thought it was over," Faried said. "Alright, 0.9, cool. They put more time on the clock. That's enough for a dribble and a shot. Oh my gosh, I didn't think that thing had a chance. He threw it up. But shooters are going shoot and they're going to make big shots. He's an All-Star. He's known for making big shots like that and he did it tonight against us.



AP

Denver Nuggets forward Danilo Gallinari (8) reacts as Brooklyn Nets forward Joe Johnson (7) runs down court with his hand in the air after hitting a three-point shot in the final split seconds of the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 8, 2016, in New York. With that shot, the Nets defeated the Nuggets, 105-104.

Cavaliers 120, Kings 100

In Cleveland, LeBron James had 21 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his 40th career triple-double, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 120-100 victory over the Sacramento Kings on Monday night.

Kyrie Irving matched his season high with 32 points for Cleveland. The point guard was 13 of 21 from the field and tied his career high with 12 assists.

It was James' first triple-double of the season. The four-time MVP rested during the fourth quarter.

Cleveland went ahead early in the game and steadily built its lead against the listless Kings, who have dropped eight of nine.

Rudy Gay and Omri Casspi led Sacramento with 16 points each.

Clippers 98, Sixers 92, OT

In Philadelphia, J.J. Redick had 23 points, including the tying 3-pointer late in regulation, and Jamal Crawford also scored 23 points to lead the short-handed Clippers to the win.

The Clippers overcame their largest deficit in a victory this season, coming back from 19 points down to win their 19th game in the last 23 overall and 12th in the last 14 on the road.

Jerami Grant had 17 points to lead the 76ers, who were looking for their first winning streak of the season.

Los Angeles took control in overtime, scoring the first eight points in the extra session as Philadelphia missed 10 straight shots to end regulation and start OT.

Magic 117, Hawks 110, OT

In Atlanta, Nikola Vucevic scored 25 of his 28 points after halftime, and Orlando rallied from 20 points down to beat Atlanta in overtime.

Orlando, which trailed by 20 in the opening period and by 18 in the third, took its first lead at 96-94 on Mario Hezonja's 3-pointer with 3:33 remaining in regulation.

Orlando scored the first six points of overtime, including a jumper by Vucevic, who also had 13 rebounds. Kyle Korver's 3-pointer pulled the Hawks to 112-110, but Evan Fournier answered with a 3 for the Magic.

Al Horford led Atlanta with 27 points, and Paul Millsap had 22 points and 13 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 112, Grizzlies 106, OT

In Memphis, Damian Lillard scored 33 points for Portland, and C.J. McCollum had six of his 21 points in overtime.

McCollum scored the first three baskets of OT to create a buffer for the Trail Blazers.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 27 points. Zach Randolph added 26 points as the Grizzlies lost their second straight overtime game.

Thunder 122, Suns 106

In Phoenix, Kevin Durant scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half and Oklahoma City pulled away in the final four minutes to hand Phoenix its eighth consecutive loss.

The Suns, losers of 23 of their last 25 games, were in it most of the way and led by as many as six late in the third quarter. But Durant sank two 3-pointers in a 16-4 Oklahoma City run to finish the game.

Russell Westbrook added 29 points for the Thunder, who were coming off a 116-108 loss at Golden State on Saturday night.

Markieff Morris scored 23 points for Phoenix, and Archie Goodwin had 20.

Raptors 103, Pistons 89

In Auburn Hills, Kyle Lowry scored 25 points, and Toronto went on an 11-2 run at the start of the fourth quarter to pull away for its 14th victory in 15 games.

Terrence Ross added 18 points for the Raptors, who recovered quickly after Detroit's Andre Drummond made a shot from about 80 feet to end the third quarter. Toronto led 70-65 at the start of the fourth, and Lowry's driving three-point play set the tone for the final period.

Drummond had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Pistons.

Pelicans 116, Timberwolves 102

In Minneapolis, Anthony Davis and Jrue Holiday scored 27 points apiece, and New Orleans snapped a four-game losing streak.

Davis grabbed eight rebounds and Holiday had nine assists and five boards as well. Ryan Anderson chipped in 26 points and the Pelicans turned 12 turnovers into 21 points while turning the ball over just four times themselves.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who were looking for their first three-game winning streak since Nov. 27. They shot 44 percent and trailed by as many as 28 in a lackluster effort.

Pacers 89, Lakers 87

In Indianapolis, Indiana's Paul George scored all seven of his second-half points in the final 71 seconds, and Monta Ellis made two free throws with 20.6 seconds left to clinch the win.

George finished with 21 points and nine rebounds. Myles Turner added 14 points and 13 rebounds on a night the Pacers (28-24) blew a 17-point second-half lead, and then scored nine straight points for the win.

Kobe Bryant scored 19 points in his final appearance in Indianapolis. He made three straight 3-pointers to give the Lakers an 82-79 lead with 2:30 left to play. But he also missed two 3s in the final 20 seconds.

Hornets 108, Bulls 91

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 30 points, powering Charlotte to the victory.

Nicolas Batum had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, who won their third straight over the Bulls at home. Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 20 points.

Pau Gasol finished with 22 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago, which was missing three of its leading scorers due to injuries: Derrick Rose, Jimmy Butler and Nikola Mirotic. Doug McDermott added 14 points.

SIDEBAR Knicks fire Derek Fisher; Rambis gets interim job

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Derek Fisher had just finished a long playing career when Phil Jackson picked him to coach the New York Knicks. Just 1 1/2 seasons later, Jackson decided he needed someone else.

Fisher was fired Monday, with his team having lost five straight and nine of 10 to fall well back in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

"It's time for us to make a change, turn this team around and move forward and get some wins and keep going down the road we had started here at the beginning of the year," Jackson said at the team's practice facility.

Associate head coach Kurt Rambis was promoted to interim head coach at least through the rest of the season. Rambis, like Fisher an ex-Laker player and a former assistant under Jackson, went 56-145 in two seasons as Minnesota's coach and part of a season leading the Lakers.

The Knicks have fallen to 23-31, dropping Fisher's overall record to 40-96. Jackson hired Fisher in June 2014, just weeks after the point guard was done playing.

"It's a huge transition from being a player to a coach at any point in time, let alone the season after you retire from playing. So it was a very difficult situation, regardless of where he coached," Rambis said.

"This is a historic franchise and this is a franchise and a fan base that's used to winning and he started the process, and it won't be finished and it may not be finished with the next two coaches that are coming in, but I think he was laying the foundation of doing things the right way and turning this franchise around."

But Fisher wasn't winning lately, and though Jackson praised his work ethic, he had seen enough of the Knicks' slow starts and faulty finishes.

Jackson also questioned whether Fisher took advantage of the experienced assistants Jackson hired to work with him, such as Rambis and Jim Cleamons. Jackson, who won an NBA-record 11 championships as a coach, also told Fisher he may not have mentored him as well as he could have.

"There wasn't really a consensus in our staff. We decided we need to have really good consensus in the working staff, interchanging of ideas and communication," Jackson said.

The Knicks went 17-65 last season but upgraded their roster during the summer with the drafting of Kristaps Porzingis and the signing of veterans Arron Afflalo and Robin Lopez.

Fisher then got off to an embarrassing start this season during training camp. He was involved in a fight with Memphis Grizzlies forward and former teammate Matt Barnes when he was at the home of Barnes' estranged wife in California.

Salman, Infantino strongest contenders for FIFA president

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—At least 26 African countries will defy their continental confederation and not vote for Sheikh Salman of Bahrain in the FIFA presidential election, the outspoken head of the Liberia soccer federation said Monday.

Musa Bility, who himself failed an integrity check to stand in the Feb. 26 election, said he had spoken to representatives of nearly half of Confederation of African Football members.

"Let me tell you" they won't back Salman, Bility told The Associated Press.

Liberia Football Association President Bility also said he had sent a letter to the head of FIFA's election committee demanding he step down over a "conflict of interest." Domenico Scala should resign because he has the same Swiss nationality as one of the candidates, UEFA secretary general Gianni Infantino, Bility said.

"None of the admitted candidates has raised this matter to date, which makes it evident that Mr. Scala's impartiality is not put in question by any of them," FIFA ad-hoc election committee spokesman Andreas Bantel said.

On Friday, Sheikh Salman, the Asian Football Confederation president, was publicly endorsed in the FIFA election by CAF, apparently a major boost to his chances. CAF urged its 54 member countries to vote for the Bahraini royal.

Africa, with the largest number of voting members out of the continental confederations, is set to be a significant battleground in the vote.

But Bility's comments followed assertions by some of Salman's rival candidates that an endorsement by CAF's executive committee does not translate into widespread support among the confederation's member countries.

AP

FIFA presidential candidate Gianni Infantino, right, sits next to one of his supporters former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, center, before unveiling his 90-day plan that he will implement if he is elected FIFA president, at Wembley Stadium in London, Monday, Feb. 1, 2016.

"As a nation we have the right (to vote for who we want)," Bility said on Monday. "Our rights are not tied with the rights of the executive committee of CAF."

Bility's association announced in the hours after CAF's public show of support for Sheikh Salman that it would instead be voting for Prince Ali of Jordan. Prince Ali said Egypt had also promised him its vote, while South Sudan declared its support for Infantino.

There are five candidates in the running to succeed Sepp Blatter. Salman, Infantino, Ali, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne of France and South African businessman Tokyo Sexwale. Salman and Infantino appear to be the strongest contenders.

Also Monday, six Central European federations confirmed their support for Infantino.

Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Poland, and Slovakia will vote for the UEFA secretary general, according to Austria federation president Leo Windtner.

"Our candidate is Gianni Infantino. That's obvious. We discussed it extensively today," Windtner said following an annual meeting of the six federations.

Windtner called on all European federations to back Infantino in the five-candidate race.

"Fact is that in the past UEFA has not always acted as a unity, has acted without a clear strategy," Windtner said. "So it will be necessary to act together toward the FIFA congress as there are some very respectable other candidates from other confederations."

In January, UEFA gave strong but not total support for its secretary general's quest.

Infantino can count on a big majority of the 53 European federations for FIFA votes, having served as their top administrator since 2009.

However, Malta has said it will vote for Prince Ali, who got votes from across Europe when he lost to Blatter 133-73 in May, and other UEFA members have publicly expressed doubts about Infantino.

The six federations have not yet discussed which candidate would be their second preference if Infantino didn't make it beyond the first round of voting.

A two-thirds majority of eligible voters is required to win in the first round, and a simple majority will clinch the presidency in subsequent rounds. The election will be held on Feb. 26 in Zürich, Switzerland.

Belau meeting today; officials named

Belau Amateur Softball Association has elected its officials for the 2016 season with Brian Adelbai voted anew as president of the group.

Joining Adelbai on the association board are vice president Highness Asanuma, secretary Felisha Brel, and treasurer Perry Besong. Also elected are board members Mabel Ngirngemelas, Leo Bobai, Allen Teliu, and Darwin Masaharu.

Meanwhile, Belau is holding a meeting for managers and representatives of teams interested in joining the masters and women's league. The meeting is set for 6pm today at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion. ***(PR)***

SBL meeting tonight

The Saipan Baseball League is calling a meeting for Wednesday, February 10, at 6pm at the Ada Gym's conference room. The opening of the 2016 SBL season will be the main topic of discussion at this meeting. Managers and coaches are urged to attend.

Contact league director Tony Rogolifoi at the Oleai Sports Complex at 234-6672 for further information. ***(PR)***

2-YEAR

From Page 28

commercial services; human resources; and revenue and marketing.

"We're looking for people who can get the job done for free. These are all volunteer work," White said during the NMSA meeting.

Interested individuals must submit a resume and letter telling what committee she/he would like to chair. They must be turned over by Feb. 29 thru fax at 234-6547, via email at mwhite@saipan.com, or snail mail at P. O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950.

PIC

From Page 28

three field goals in the first 10 minutes of play.

Other GMJ/Wholesale began hitting their marks in the next two quarters, but PIC answered back with Aranda, Barbo, Abuy, and Sean Rabasto alternately converting baskets for the southern squad and keeping their double-digit spread.

By the end of the first half, PIC's advantaged ballooned to 19, 49-30, behind the 12 second-quarter points of Aranda, and the team remained in control in the third, 73-57, thanks to Rabasto's 10 markers in the penultimate quarter.

In the fourth canto, GMJ/IKKI Wholesale cut the deficit to as low as 11, 76-87, with James Villacrusis anchoring a 7-0 run with a triple and a fastbreak layup. Elgene Mangali scored the 2 other points off another layup and GMJ/IKKI Wholesale had a chance to move closer in the last 3:10 of the match, but it fired blanks in its next eight attempts, including three layups from Mark Ferrer, before a putback from Camacho in the final 41 seconds ended the string of misses.

PIC, on other hand, secured the victory with Abuy and Aranda combining for the team's last 9 points and the latter putting icing on the cake by burying a triple at the buzzer.

Aranda paced PIC with his 30 points, while Rabasto still finished in twin digits with his 18 despite leaving the court at the 6:34 mark of the fourth canto due to a minor injury. Rabasto's feet got tangled with Marlon Sison's, causing tension between the opposing teams.

The incident happened when Rabasto unloaded a floater from the right baseline, fell to the ground, and missed the shot. There was a fight for the rebound with Sison battling two PIC players and one of his teammates. Bodies collided in the air as all four went for the ball and Sison was eventually pushed and he landed on Rabasto.

A commotion erupted after that with PIC coach Noel Verder leaving the bench and entering the court to confront Sison. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and prevented further altercation between Sison and Verder, who were each slapped with a technical foul.

The game resumed and PIC managed to keep its safe distance, as GMJ/IKKI failed to hit baskets in streaks and missed a lot of point-blanked shots in the homestretch.

Barbo and Abuy added 18 and 16 points for PIC to back up Aranda and Rabasto, while Camacho led GMJ/IKKI with his 21 markers. Mangali chipped in 19.

Meanwhile, the PIC-Blue Haus winner-take-all finale will be played this Saturday at 8pm after the 6:30pm consolation match between GMJ/IKKI and Cholos.

PIC 96—Aranda 30, Rabasto 18, Barbo 18, Abuy 16, Espinosa 7, Castro 4, Babauta 3.

GMJ/IKKI 78—Camacho 21, Mangali 19, Barrios 10, Villacrusis 8, Esteves 5, Oyola 3, Sison 3, Ferrer 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 49-30, 73-57, 96-78.

LEE

From Page 28

it to the Final Four first as he swept Colin Ramsey last Saturday, 6-3, 6-2.

The other semis pairing will pit Micronesian Games veteran Bobby Cruz against new Saipan Tennis Academy owner and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis pro Peter Loken. Cruz took the second semis seat in the division following a 6-3, 6-0 win versus junior player Robbie Schorr. Loken bagged the third Final Four ticket as he also defeated a young player in Ken Song last Sunday, 6-4, 6-0.

The Cruz-Loken and Lee-Villanueva semis matches will be played this weekend, while the title game is expected to take place on Monday.

Meanwhile, the semis cast of the boys U12 and U14 singles events were also completed over the weekend.

In the boys U14 singles, the qualifiers were Ji Min Woo, Sean Lee, Allan Lee, and Seung jin Paik. Paik eased his way into the semifinals following a shutout win over Sam Ryu at the bottom half of the draw. Allan Lee, on the other hand, nearly duplicated Woo's feat after a 6-0, 6-1 victory against Go Sekiguchi. Allan and Paik will collide in the semifinals this weekend.

Woo and Sean Lee will square off in the other Final Four match after eliminating their respective foes. Woo dominated Jeffrey Seo, 6-1, 6-1, while Sean outclassed Eugene Park, 6-2, 7-5.

In the boys U12 singles, Daniel Kang led the semis cast following his 7-5, 6-1 win over Anthony Gregoire. Kang will be up against Min Jin Cho, who waltzed past Chris Ryu, 6-2, 6-2. Rintaro Miyawaki and Richard Steele rounded out the Final Four qualifiers as they blanked Jae Hoon Son and Seung Won Lee.

2016 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Father and daughter Richard, right, and Savita Sikkel move out of the water during last Saturday's 2016 SSC Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim at the Pacific Islands Club.

Taiyo Akimaru sprints to the finish line.

A rainbow appears as Kento Akimaru crosses the finish line.

Jinie Thompson, right is greeted by her mom Kyungah after the former completed the one-kilometer course.

Fr. Ryan Jimenez heads to the finish line.

Joshua Berger smiles as he nears completion of the three-kilometer race.

Dominic Zedde looks to the shore as his family eggs him to complete the race. Also in the photo is Pacific Islands Club's Glenn Policare, who volunteered for the morning race along with other PIC staff members.

David Boyer runs to the shore.

From left, Jin Ju Thompson, Salofi Welch, and R.J. Pierce sprint to the finish line.

Wataru Kadokura runs along the shore carrying his fins.

Will Osweiler step in as Peyton steps out in Denver?

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nets nip Nuggets on Johnson 3-pointer at buzzer

PAGE 25

PIC ousts GMJ/IKKI, enters finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club foiled GMJ/IKKI Wholesale's bid for another finals entry following a 96-78 victory in their semis game in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

PIC got off to a good start and survived GMJ/IKKI's repeated rallies to notch the second finals berth and set up a meeting against Blue Haus for the inaugural league's overall championship. The victory also avenged PIC's 76-79 semis loss to GMJ/IKKI in the west division, which the latter eventually ruled following an 81-75 win over Blue Haus.

GMJ/Wholesale missed a second finals stint as it stared at early double-digit deficit, 16-27. PIC stunned the west division champion in the first quarter after connecting from downtown at the get-go with Jack Aranda drilling back-to-back triples and James Abuy adding another shot from beyond the arc. Darwin Barbo also knocked in one triple in the closing minutes of the first period and three other PIC players hit the board in the opening canto for their 11-point advantage.

GMJ/Wholesale could not keep up with PIC's hot shooting in the first frame, as only Juan Camacho canned more than one field goal for the former. The GMJ/Wholesale workhorse scored the squad's first 7 points and the rest of his teammates combined for only

See PIC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Islands Club's Jack Aranda drives against GMJ/IKKI Wholesale's J.R. Barrios, left, and Juan Camacho, during the fourth quarter of their semis game in the San Antonio caging last Monday night at the San Antonio court.

2-year term for NMSA officials proposed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A proposal allowing Northern Marianas Sports Association officials to stay in office for two years was discussed during the group's monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

White

Michael White, who was again elected NMSA president, said the provision on term of office is included in the proposed NMSA Bylaws to promote continuity.

"NMSA has not voted to have elected officials serve for two years. A provision to this effect is contained in proposed Bylaws, which have not yet been voted upon (or even distributed to) the membership. If the proposed Bylaws are adopted, the current Board (and officers) will remain in office until the annual meeting in January of 2018," White said.

Currently, NMSA officials served for one year with the annual election held every January. The two-year term was mentioned as most sports federations from other countries follow longer term of office that usually lasts for four years. The change is also timely as the CNMI is preparing for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

When NMSA members present at the meeting raised concerns on officials serving longer terms, but not performing their duties and putting the association and its respective sport in a bad light, they agreed that a mechanism should be in place to remove the erring official from the board.

Meanwhile, White reiterated the importance of finding chairs for seven committees that will work with the 2021 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee. The Pacific Games Council is requiring NMSA and the CNMI to fill up these positions so that preparation for the Mini Games can move faster.

Interested individuals can choose to chair the following committees: infrastructure, facilities, and equipment; international relations; games village and support services; technology and systems;

See 2-YEAR on Page 26

Lee outlasts Tudela in super tiebreaker

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The rose among the thorns bloomed in the opening week of the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic as Carol Lee made it to the semifinals of the male-dominated Open singles event.

Lee, the lone female entry in the most competitive singles contest in the annual tournament, slipped past fellow junior player Vincent Tudela in a three-set match last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club to earn the last Final Four berth in the division. She dropped the opening set, 5-7, but foiled Tudela's bid for an upset against the World Junior ITF-ranked player after dominating the last two. Lee coasted to a 6-1 victory in the second set and then completed the come-from-behind win with a 10-2 triumph in the super tiebreaker third set.

With the victory, Lee arranged a semis duel against Moris Villanueva at the lower half of the bracket. Villanueva needed only two sets to make

See LEE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee returns to Vincent Tudela during their singles game in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.